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## A TALE OF TWO NEWCOMERS

DAY 4 OF METRO'S LOOK AT IMMIGRATION: THE CHALLENGES AND REWARDS OF COMING TO CANADA PAGE 8

metro AR USE METRO AR TO WATCH A CLIP FROM THE FEATURE

## Soknacki has the policy, but the profile ... ?

Hear the mayoral candidate defend his risky and quirky campaign vs. celebrity PAGE 6

## 'Bathtub Girls' find sympathy on silver screen

But reporter who covered case of sisters that drowned their mom calls film too kind to 'cold-blooded' duo PAGE 10

## Hey, look at the time: It's Ford-Twenty

Trailer Park Boys actor and member of Ford campaign dedicated drug use to the mayor on web show PAGE 4

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

# Cop details office stabbing spree

**Four struck.** Detective alleges fired employee went on rampage, was subdued by workers

Moments after he was fired from his job on Wednesday morning, police allege Chuang Li stabbed three managers on the fifth floor of a North York office building before turning the weapon on a coworker.

Det. Dan Darnborough of 32 Division said early information suggests Li, 47, was brought into an office in the human resources department at Ceridian shortly after 9 a.m., where two managers broke the news.

"He was being told to leave," Darnborough said.

Police believe Li stabbed both managers — a woman and a man — several times. The woman was stabbed in the abdomen, stomach and face, and the man was stabbed in the chest and abdomen, Darnborough said.

As Li tried to leave the room, he was met by another human resources manager, who had heard commotion from his office next door, Darnborough said.

Li allegedly stabbed the manager above the left eye before running through the main part of the office, where he allegedly stabbed an employee who may have been attempting to stop him, Darnborough said.

"There was a big scene there as well," he said.

Darnborough said he is "99 per cent certain" the weapon was a knife but could not yet confirm because scissors were also found at the scene.

Employees on the fifth floor at 4110 Yonge St. subdued Li until police arrived, Darnborough said.

By that point, Darnborough said Li "had calmed down."

Li has been charged with three counts of attempted murder, four courts of aggravated assault and four courts of assault with a weapon.

On Wednesday evening, Darnborough said the woman, in her early 30s, was in surgery for treatment of life-threatening injuries. The other two managers remained in hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The employee has been released.

Li is scheduled to appear in court on Thursday morning.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Quoted**

**"It's so sad. You hear of these things in the States, but you never expect it here."**

**Malcolm Steven,** who was about to head into a meeting next to 4110 Yonge St. when he saw four police cars race by

**'Nice, quiet guy'**

**Neighbours in Chuang Li's tidy suburban enclave in northwest Mississauga, where a tire swing hangs from a tree branch near the community mail box, described him as a kind man who enjoyed tennis and gardening.**

- "He's a very nice, quiet guy," said Chris Pokora. "He's a family man. What will they do now?"

## THINGS ARE LOOKING UP FOR RISING BLUE JAYS

**Jose Bautista looks way up to watch the flight of the ball off his bat as he fouls out against the Houston Astros in Toronto on Wednesday. The popular slugger had one hit and two runs as the Jays trumped the Astros 7-3. Toronto will go for a three-game sweep on Thursday night. See story, page 38.**

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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E.C.C.A.

## Clothing drop box a mystery

Owner of an Etobicoke strip mall on Browns Line Stephanie Kepecs noticed a large, yellow bin placed in the parking lot.

According to the sign on the bin, it belongs to a not-for-profit organization called E.C.C.A. But, no one ever returned any of Kepecs' numerous phone calls or messages. Inquiries from Torstar News Service also went unanswered.

"What's going on here is just not right," said Kepecs.

Many charities collect clothes, but private businesses have entered the fray, placing donation boxes to earn profits, often unbeknownst to those who think their old jeans are going to support a cause.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New poll

## Gas-plants scandal hurting Liberals

The Liberal gas-plants scandal is fuelling a surge in support for the Progressive Conservatives, according to a new poll.

Forum Research's latest survey shows the controversy is hurting Premier Kathleen Wynne even though it dates back to her predecessor Dalton McGuinty.

The poll found Tim Hudak's Progressive Conservatives now lead with 38 per cent support to 31 per cent for Wynne's Liberals, 23 per cent for Andrea Horwath's New Democrats and seven per cent for Mike Schreiner's Green Party.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Cops' spoof video leads to conduct charges

This YouTube screen grab shows three Durham Regional Police employees who are being investigated after a satirical video posted to YouTube showed uniformed officers going "on a quest for freedom" to get out of court services branch duties. Two have been charged with discreditable conduct. The video, which appears to be a spoof of a Hollywood movie trailer, describes the three as being "forced to serve prisoners" and shows them mopping up cells and giving out toilet paper. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

# Cellphone payment to come to Green P lots

**New waves.** Phone app to make paying for parking more convenient

The city-owned Toronto Parking Authority is introducing cellphone payment at its 130 Green P lots.

The plan is to test the system over the summer and extend it to all parking lots in the fall, said parking authority vice-president Ian Maher.

Some 70 cities already have the payment option. They report that users like the feature that warns time is about to expire and asks if you want to buy more time, Maher said.

"Everyone says that's the best feature of it," he said. "You don't have to return to your vehicle to extend your time. It's obviously much more convenient for people."

The parking authority has selected a vendor to supply the technology, and details are still being worked out.

A report was presented Wednesday to council's public works and infrastructure committee, which endorsed technical changes to move the project forward.

Generally, Maher said, people will sign up on a website using their phone or desktop, registering their licence plate and credit card number. It's expected people will put money in their account, which will be drawn down as parking is booked.

The user includes the parking lot number and specifies how much parking time is needed. The app gives the fee and asks for confirmation. It will also notify the user when there's 10 or 15 minutes left, and the user can add time if wanted at the push of a button, Maher said.

The system gives people peace of mind that they won't be dinged by a parking ticket, and that means they may be more likely to patronize stores and restaurants on commercial strips, said Coun. Ana Bailao.

"I think it's a fantastic idea," said Bailao, a member of the parking authority's board. "The convenience is great. I think it'll be very popular."

Maher said the cellphone parker will pay the same rates and there will be no administration fee to use the service in the Green P lots, which encompass about 10,000 parking spaces. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Looking ahead**

**The parking authority handles 30 million parking transactions yearly and is estimating that at least 5 million of those transactions will be done via cellphone.**

- They plan to extend cellphone payments to Toronto's 18,000 on-street parking spaces as soon as possible after the Green P lots are up and running, but the timing is undetermined.

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# Sheepdogs bring bite to Pink Party

**Fundraiser.** Rockers will help liven up breast-cancer event that also features DJs, all-you-can-eat candy and a luxury auction

PHOEBE HO
toronto@metronews.ca

The Sheepdogs will be bringing their throwback blue-jeaned boogie to The Pink Party in Toronto on Friday, a fundraiser to support the fight against breast cancer.

The Juno Award-winning band's Ryan Gullen says they're ramping up for another busy festival season this summer, but they couldn't pass up an opportunity to support The Pink Party.

"We like to lend ourselves to charity events if we feel it's a really good cause," he told Metro. "It's something that obviously has affected so many people, young and old, so it's something we want to be a part of."

The Pink Party's organizer, Paul Etherington, promises a night chock full of fun and musical entertainment. Headlining with the shaggy Saskatchewan rockers will be rappers Naughty by Nature. There will also be a Calvin Klein underwear fashion show and sets by electronic violinist Dr. Draw, DJ Tom Wrecks and DJ Megan Daniels.

Guests will also be treated to an all-pink candy buffet, breast-shaped doughnuts and a luxury silent auction.

Etherington, who's also the co-founder of a not-for-profit organization called Motionball that benefits the Special Olympics Canada Foundation, knows a thing or two about throwing a good party. It's the one way he's chosen to give back.

"When my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer it hit home, and for me it was my way of supporting her and obviously a very important organization because so many women are affected by this," he said. "Events I do OK in and I thought this was the best way for me to give back."

His goal is to raise $50,000 for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation this year.

For more information, visit thepinkparty.ca.

**From humble beginnings**

**The Pink Party, which started off in organizer Paul Etherington's backyard five years ago after his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, has come a long way since. Instead of the 80 friends he gathered that first year, Etherington is now expecting to host roughly 1,000 party-goers at the Castlefield Event Theatre. And instead of using his iPod as entertainment and his neighbour as co-host, Etherington now invites award-winning artists every year, and will have Canadian actress Kristen Kreuk as co-host on Friday.**

The Sheepdogs joke around following the Juno Awards in Winnipeg on March 30. Ryan Gullen, second from right, says Friday's Pink Party fundraiser is an event the band can really get behind. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Trailer Park Boy tokes up in Ford's honour

Trailer Park Boys actor Sam Tarasco hosts his online show in which he smokes joints, tells profane stories and once smoked "green crack" kush marijuana on camera "in honour of Rob Ford." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

One of the first members of Rob Ford's campaign team is the co-host of an online marijuana show, High F—ers, in which he smokes joints until he vomits, tells profane stories while high and dedicates his drug use to Ford.

"In honour of Rob Ford, I think we should smoke the 'green crack' kush today," actor Sam Tarasco, best known for playing Sam Losco on the show Trailer Park Boys, said at the beginning of the second episode.

Ford, who is asking voters to look past his own drug use, announced Tuesday that Tarasco and disgraced sprinter Ben Johnson will be working on his campaign, playing "a lot of roles."

High F—ers appears on the website Swearnet, the online home of the Trailer Park Boys. Tarasco plays the character Sam Losco in the Boys' signature television comedy. On the marijuana show, which is in its first season, he speaks as himself.

"The purpose of this f—ing program is going to be to educate, to inform — and really just an excuse for me to get f—ing high with my buddy," Tarasco, who did not respond to requests for comment, said in the pilot.

In the second episode, Tarasco said he has arthritis in his knees. In the third, in which he vomited on camera after overindulging, he said he usually smokes less to deal with elbow and eye pain.

The second episode of High F—ers appears to have been filmed in early November, just after Ford confessed he had tried crack cocaine. When Tarasco suggested they smoke "green crack" cannabis as a tribute to Ford, co-host Amy Anonymous, an advocate and expert, explained that a magazine changed the name of the strain to "green fluffy bunnies."

"'Green crack' is really offensive," she said. "Especially for people who medicate with cannabis and not crack — crack is an offensive word.... So in order to make it less offensive, they called it green fluffy bunnies." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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# Wynne using 'libel chill' to intimidate Opposition: PCs

**Premier asked to drop libel action.** Wynne says Hudak's allegations not based on fact

Ontario's Progressive Conservatives are asking Premier Kathleen Wynne to withdraw her threatened libel action against Opposition Leader Tim Hudak and the PC party.

Wynne's lawyer served Hudak with a notice of libel last week demanding he retract accusations that she oversaw the wiping of computer hard drives in the premier's office last year.

Hudak wasn't in question period Wednesday, but PC member John Yakabuski asked Wynne to drop the threatened lawsuit. Yakabuski accused Wynne of trying to use "libel chill" to prevent the Opposition from uncovering more embarrassing revelations about the Liberals' decisions to cancel two gas plants.

Wynne says she filed the libel notice because Hudak is making allegations that are not based on fact, and insists she had no role in wiping the hard drives.

Provincial police are investigating possible breach of trust charges for the deletion of emails on the cancellation of gas plants in Mississauga and Oakville just before the 2011 election. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Celebration of diverse roots, celebrated

Two women wait at Victoria Park subway station, which recently won the 2014 Ontario Association of Architects Design Excellence award. The project successfully incorporates architecture, art, environmental and urban design. The theme of putting down roots is embedded throughout the station in response to the multicultural community in Scarborough. The awards are being handed out May 7-9 in Montreal. CONTRIBUTED

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## Smarties

Five of Canada's top scholars and scientists, including the U of T's Andreas Mandelis, pictured, have been recognized by the Canada Council for the Arts as winners of the 2014 Killam Prizes, which awards $100,000 to each recipient. The other Toronto winner was Sajeev John, also at U of T. The Killam Prizes were endowed by Dorothy J. Killam in the name of her late husband, Canadian industrialist Izaak Walton Killam. CONTRIBUTED

# Commuter alert: Yonge subway line partially closed Saturday morning

The TTC is closing the Yonge line between Bloor and Eglinton on Saturday for emergency track work in an area that is increasingly impacting subway service.

The 60-year-old track bed near the Davisville station needs replacing, but the TTC hasn't decided how to do that without an extended closure.

So between closing Friday night and noon Saturday, crews will tamp down the stones that support the tracks, and check the switches and signals that have been at the root of recent subway delays.

The subway will open at 6 a.m. as usual and operate between Finch and Eglinton stations and between Bloor and Downsview. There will be 35 shuttle buses to ferry riders between Bloor and Eglinton until the line reopens at noon. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Slow going**

**20**

The TTC has had a slow order on that section of track for the last couple of years. The track bed should have been replaced 20 years ago but the work has been delayed due to budget constraints.

**Month-long campaign**

## Move for Hope on Saturday

This Saturday, Toronto residents can take part in a one-hour workout at Yonge-Dundas Square, as part of Move for Hope, the kickoff event for the Canadian Women's Foundation's 10th Annual Campaign to End Violence Against Women.

Funds raised will support local shelters for women and children. METRO

TORONTO VOTES 2014

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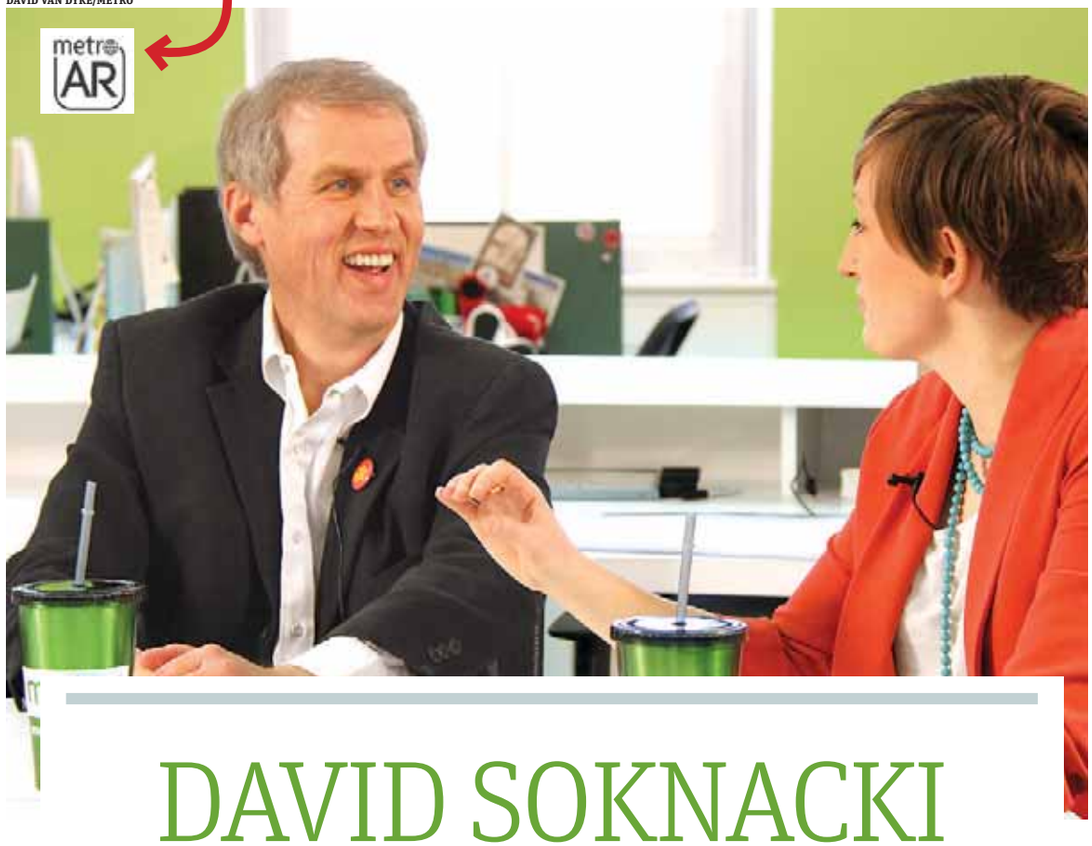
DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO




# DAVID SOKNACKI

We took questions on social media hashtagged #MayorQs and put them to four of the top mayoral candidates at the Metro office last week. This week, we're publishing the news and analysis. For video highlights, go to metronews.ca.

## "ALL PATHS ARE PERILOUS FOR POLITICIANS"

In his interview with Metro, David Soknacki mentioned Miguel de Cervantes, but he wasn't talking about his politically quixotic campaign, he was talking about the role of arts and culture in public life.

While Soknacki's platform includes several planks that risk being politically unpopular — paying for new transit with taxpayer money, cancelling the proposed Scarborough subway to build an LRT, and looking to the emergency services budgets for cuts — the Cervantes references came in answer to a question about the creation of Toronto's poet laureate post, which was his idea.

"Public life, and indeed life, is more than dollars and cents," he said, and named-dropped some authors he reads, such as Don Quixote author Cervantes and Russians Fyodor Dostoevsky and Leo Tolstoy. "I think that poetry and the arts are part of the fabric of our life."

Most of Soknacki's campaign is focused on the dollars and cents, as was his history on Toronto council.

Soknacki was elected in a byelection in 1999, after serving as a pre-amalgamation Scarborough councillor. He was David Miller's first-term budget chief but chose not to run again.

During his tenure, he demanded budget cuts from city departments, voted against councillor raises and donated part of his salary back to the city.

Toronto Star writers called him a "high-waisted boy scout," a "bean-counter" and "perennially parsimonious."

Today, Soknacki prefers to build an LRT rather than a subway in Scarborough, and raising money by many means to build new transit like the downtown relief line.

"I'm the only one that's not afraid to say that transit isn't free, that in fact we need, I WILL call them taxes, and other revenue tools for transit," he said.

Soknacki said he wants to raise money for the relief line from as broad a base as possible, and mentioned development charges, tax incremental funding and additional revenue tools.

When we asked about the political risks of his call to look for cuts in the emergency services budgets, especially if it means fewer frontline officers on the streets, he said, "All paths are perilous for politicians."

He added that he wouldn't "prejudge" the results of studies into how emergency services are run, but said a top-level review is needed.

"It's everything ... the demographics have changed, our expectations have changed, the technology has changed, the rates of crime have changed. Everything has changed and yet we're doing policing in the same way we've always done it," he said. "When you take a look at the benchmark results, we're not doing it particularly well.

"Certainly I have full confidence in the police being able to execute, but we need as a body public to set the direction," he added.

Earlier in the campaign, a Redditor asked Soknacki in an ask-me-anything session who his favourite Wu Tang Clan member is — and Soknacki had to say he didn't know the group. To him, Drake is a British sea captain (Sir Francis Drake). Yet, his campaign is quite hip and takes full advantage of Internet memes.

Soknacki said there's no inconsistency there.

"Yes, I like folk music and I like Gregorian chant and I like classical music," he said. "At the same time, we have found that— and it's a we — our campaign has a fun image and a fun way of getting together so that most of the campaign workers are on the good side of 30."

## PLATFORM

David Soknacki, founder of Ecom Food Industries, was a budget chief under David Miller. If elected, he would:

- Reduce commercial, industrial and rental apartment tax rates.
- Reform the business licensing system.
- Reinstate the Scarborough LRT plan.
- Modernize the public safety system.
- Reduce pedestrian deaths and protect parks and historical buildings.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'The polls will start changing'

## *Uphill battle against 'celebrity'*

MATT ELLIOTT
metronews.ca

Since he registered to run for mayor in January, I have been trying to find things to dislike about David Soknacki's wonkish, policy-heavy campaign.

It's still a short list. Really, there's only one thing to dislike: the sinking feeling that he's not going to be able to compete with his high-profile opponents.

We asked Soknacki about his low poll numbers when he visited the Metro Toronto newsroom. In his response, he was hopeful and pointed to something he called the "politics of celebrity."

"I recognize that right now votes are parked," he said. "That people realize that they don't have to make a decision for — what is it? — seven months now, and if they have a predilection for voting left or right or being content, they will go with a celebrity. I think that the polls will start changing when people take a look at the details of the campaign and move beyond the celebrity."

In our interview, Soknacki didn't exhibit any desire to become a celebrity himself. He spent little time talking up his life story. Instead, he spoke in nerdy detail about the city's budget pressures and the long-term fiscal plan. And when it came time to talk transit, he didn't shy away from hard truths.

"I'm the only one that's not afraid to say that transit isn't free," Soknacki said. "That in fact we need, I WILL call them taxes, and other revenue tools for transit. It's incredibly important. I believe that while we must remain a competitive jurisdiction — because we don't want people on fixed incomes or those who have a choice to flee — yet, on the other hand, we need the revenue tools in order to enhance our quality of life."

It was a clear, honest answer, but how far will clarity and honesty go when he's stacked up against a slate of candidates that includes at least two household names and one scandal-plagued, internationally-known incumbent with his very own bobblehead?

It'll be an uphill battle. For Soknacki, his best hope is that his trajectory follows that of David Miller in 2003. Back then, pundits said the virtually unknown Miller didn't have a chance in hell of beating his high-profile opponents.

The voters said otherwise.

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# Good times, hard times

Coming to Canada is a challenge for anybody. Sometimes it goes well, and sometimes it doesn't. We talk to two people at different ends of the scale.

See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see a video clip featuring more immigrants who've made Canada home.

Priscilla Bunke, originally from Nigeria, lived in Germany for 11 years before moving to Canada. She's now a successful specialist in securities and derivatives regulatory law, as well as the energy and oil industries. CONTRIBUTED

Jamie Martinez moved to Canada from Colombia in January 2008. He spent years working as a labourer in Canada and has been forced to tap into the welfare system. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

The Story of Us
Immigration in Canada

MIKE DONACHIE
Metro in London, Ont.

Priscilla Bunke has come a long way, in more ways than one.

Her route to Canada was via Germany, where she spent 11 years. She then worked through a process of re-qualifying as a lawyer in Alberta, completing that in May 2012.

It's been 18 years since Bunke left her native Nigeria, and she's now a successful specialist in securities and derivatives regulatory law, as well as the energy and oil industries, with Dentons law firm in Calgary.

If that sounds impressive, it's because it is.

"It wasn't easy," she said. "But many people come here and succeed."

She's done a lot of work in the last 11 years, including 12 exams just to re-qualify in Canada.

"I wouldn't lie," said Bunke, 45, who has a 14-year-old son and an 11-year-old daughter. "Life is very good now. I'm very happy now. But it was tough."

She said working in Germany — where she completed a master's degree and worked as a corporate counsel for an insurance company — was tougher, mainly due to the language barrier.

In Canada, Bunke was able to find work quickly, spending three years as a legal researcher while she re-qualified.

But adjusting to Canada after she arrived in July 2007 brought its own challenges.

There's a greater emphasis on networking, she explained, and the lessons come thick and fast.

"What I've realized here is that if you are open to learning, then people are really, really kind and ready to help," Bunke said, adding that she values the Canadian mentors who offered their time.

"I've been very fortunate and blessed to meet people who have been amazing."

It's been a tough few years for Jamie Martinez.

Now 54, he came to Canada from Colombia in January 2008.

"My original background is mechanical engineering," Martinez said. "But I worked for Goodyear in Colombia for 17 years in human resources. I wanted to do something the same when I came to Canada, but I couldn't."

First, there was a language barrier.

Two ESL courses helped with that, but even applying for jobs was a problem, so there followed lessons in creating a resumé and looking for work.

Martinez spent years being offered only labourer jobs, and he's also been forced to tap into the welfare system. But he stayed determined to work in administration, in a similar job to the one he had in Colombia.

It took three years before he landed an office job, and he says his experience isn't rare — even the large numbers of university-educated immigrants face a steep climb, he said.

Martinez, who is in the country on a work visa and still trying, after six years, to get permanent resident status, says he's committed to Canada.

Nowadays, he works as executive director of the Latino Canadian Community Corporation in London, Ont., and is a leading light in the London Multicultural Club.

"Canada is amazing," he said.

"We love Canada. It's so family-oriented."

But he called on employers to be more open to newcomers, whose status is easily signalled with a SIN card number that starts with "9."

"We don't get real help to get a job," he said about immigrants.

"We need more help to overcome all the problems we have."

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

Follow Mike Donachie on Twitter @Mike_Donachie

**Quoted**

**"We need more help to overcome all the problems we have."**

Jamie Martinez

## A truly Canadian quiz

The Canadian citizenship test was altered in 2010 to make it a little more difficult.

Since then, applicants have been required to answer 15 of 20 questions correctly, whereas previously they passed with 12 out of 20 correct responses — as long as they gave the right answer to certain mandatory questions.

The problem was those mandatory questions were always the same, making the test easy to beat by paying for the answers beforehand. (And, it's been proven that really was happening).

About 96 per cent of those taking the test before 2010 passed. The new formula has lowered the pass rate to 80 per cent or so.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) sends all applicants a study guide as soon as the paperwork is received.

"The best way to succeed at the citizenship test is to study Discover Canada," said a CIC official. "We encourage people to begin studying as soon as they apply for citizenship and receive their study guide."

As well, an online language test must be taken and passed before anything else happens.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

**On the web**

Can you pass? Give our practice citizenship test a try at metronews.ca

## Getting their start elsewhere

Plenty of immigrants come to Canada and wind up being household names. You may be surprised at how many well-known Canucks didn't actually get a start in the True North strong and free. Here's a look:

Steve Nash
GETTY IMAGES

Steve Nash is considered the best NBA player ever to spend most of his life in Canada. Currently a member of the Los Angeles Lakers, he was named the NBA's most valuable player in both 2006 and 2007. He grew up in Victoria, B.C. He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Ernie Coombs
GETTY IMAGES

Ernie Coombs was a children's entertainer who starred in the Canadian television series, Mr. Dressup. He became a Canadian citizen in 1994. He and his family lived in Pickering, Ont. He was born in Lewiston, Maine.

Brendan Fraser
GETTY IMAGES

Brendan Fraser, son of Canadian parents, is a movie and stage actor who portrayed Rick O'Connell in the three-part Mummy series. He is also known for other comedic and fantasy-film leading roles in major Hollywood movies. He was born in Indianapolis, Ind.

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# Mississauga's infamous 'Bathtub Girls' have their story told on the big screen

**Perfect Sisters.** New film is based on the case of two sisters who drowned their mother in a bathtub in 2003

Georgie Henley, left, and Abigail Breslin star in the movie Perfect Sisters, about two teenage girls who murder their mother by drowning her in their bathtub. The movie, opening April 11 in select cities, is based on a true story from Mississauga of two sisters who were convicted of first-degree murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CONTRIBUTED

One of two GTA sisters who drowned their alcoholic mother when they were teenagers and almost got away with it has made an unlikely transition from murder to law school, a new film reveals.

The sordid tale of the so-called Bathtub Girls — who were convicted of first-degree murder in the 2003 death of their mother in Mississauga — is now the subject of the movie Perfect Sisters.

The film, opening Friday in Toronto, notes that both girls are now in university — one of them in law school — and focuses on what led two young girls to murder their mother.

Filmed in Winnipeg, the movie stars Abigail Breslin, known for Little Miss Sunshine, and Georgie Henley, known for the Chronicles of Narnia series. It's based on the book by former Toronto Star reporter Bob Mitchell, The Class Project: How to Kill a Mother: The True Story of Canada's Infamous Bathtub Girls.

The movie, however, takes a markedly different perspective than the book.

Director Stan Brooks says he was determined for the story to be as accurate as possible to the real events and fictionalized almost nothing. But the story is portrayed through a far more sympathetic lens than Mitchell's book.

"It wasn't so simple as to say, 'These were sociopathic girls. They were just evil,'" Brooks said in an interview.

"I see how teens can make bad decisions in bad situations. I, as a parent myself, I'm much more cognizant of what might have taken place that got them there, without condoning what they did."

It was a very fine line to walk, between making the girls immediately unsympathetic and trying to understand their motives, Brooks said. The film focuses on their unstable lives with their alcoholic mother and her abusive boyfriend.

"It was not unintentional to cast two girls who have spent their careers being good girls on film so that the immediate audience reaction to seeing the girl from Little Miss Sunshine and the darling from the Narnia movies would be to like them," Brooks said.

Mitchell, who covered the story extensively as a reporter, does not see the girls as sympathetic figures.

"If you didn't know the whole story, the movie comes across as these poor girls, basically, who were pushed to the limit and this is how they figured out how to get out of it, but then in the end they get caught," Mitchell said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Quoted**

**"I don't think the movie dealt with how cold-blooded and calculating they were."**

**Former Toronto Star reporter Bob Mitchell,** who covered the original case

# Wi-Fi? Why not! Vancouverites may soon enjoy free wireless web

EMILY JACKSON
Metro in Vancouver

Wouldn't it be nice to use free Wi-Fi instead of pricey cellular data plans when posting pics on Instagram of the sun setting over the beach?

Vancouver's park board figures residents and tourists would appreciate the option, and it will vote on a motion next week asking staff to determine potential locations for free public Wi-Fi, the cost of such a program and a timeline for implementing the service, Commissioner Trevor Loke announced Wednesday.

The city has been mulling free public Wi-Fi since at least 2005 — it's already in place at city hall and at the public library — and council passed a digital strategy last year promising to make Internet access a reality by 2016.

But Loke wants to get the ball rolling on the plan to ensure the park board has a say in what places get Wi-Fi — suggestions so far have focused on busy downtown shopping strips.

"We want to make sure that park spaces are a priority within the digital strategy," Loke said.

The park board will prioritize Internet access in spaces with high residential density and appeal for tourists.

It's not clear how much Wi-Fi infrastructure will cost, but the city is considering partnerships with local providers. The entire digital strategy was budgeted at $30 million between 2013 and 2017.

Quebec City, Denver, Co., and Auckland, New Zealand, already provide free public Wi-Fi.

# High steaks. Calgary police beefing up efforts to corral meat thieves

Police say a man accused in a dangerous high-speed drive through Calgary, speeding the wrong way down one-way streets before crashing into a fence, may be involved in a meat-theft ring.

Police investigators say supermarket meat is a prime target for thieves, and a sophisticated crime ring is being fuelled by rising food costs.

It's enough of a problem that police have a dedicated unit working to stop the trend.

Const. Lara Sampson says the stolen food is often exchanged for as little as 30 cents on the dollar, or for drugs, and some ends up in restaurants.

"We have them being sold out of the back of vehicles, we have them kept in dirty old garages," Sampson said. "It is very common in Calgary right now."

Gary Neil Firth, 49, faces numerous charges.

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# Need more troops in Central African Republic: Envoy

**Chad withdrawing.** U.S. ambassador said there's a need for more troops; UN votes Thursday on expanding its role

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations on Wednesday urged more support for existing African and French troops in Central African Republic on the eve of a UN vote to create a peacekeeping mission.

Ambassador Samantha Power, making her second visit to the country since unprecedented sectarian violence erupted in December, said the African peacekeeping mission is now working to fill the gap left by neighbouring Chad. Last week the Chadian government began withdrawing its 850 troops following allegations some had indiscriminately killed dozens of unarmed civilians.

Power, who met Wednesday with top officials from the African peacekeeping, said that Cameroonian and French forces were being moved into the areas previously guarded by the Chadians.

"There's no question that we need to redouble our efforts — we're making them every day anyway," she told reporters. "But this adds even more urgency to the task of getting more troops and more police deployed rapidly in order to fill those gaps which really do exist." The UN Security Council is due to vote Thursday on expanding the nearly 5,000-strong African mission in Central African Republic into a UN peacekeeping operation for the country of 4.6 million.

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**Muslims waiting**

**"What I think the UN is trying to do is to make sure we go on a case-by-case basis."**

**U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power**

At least 19,000 Muslims are still trapped and unable to flee. Power said part of the challenge is finding out whether individuals want to leave or try staying.

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# Dallaire pushing to erect reminder of war's horror

**Mother Canada.**
Decorated ex-soldier wants replica of Vimy Ridge sculpture within daily sight of MPs and senators

Sculpture Mother Canada at Canadian National Vimy Memorial. GETTY IMAGES

She strikes a mournful, solitary pose on the crest of a French ridge once soaked in Canadian blood — an image one prominent former soldier says should be a daily reminder to parliamentarians that their decisions have consequences.

Sen. Romeo Dallaire has been quietly lobbying the federal government to construct a replica of the monument known as Mother Canada, located on the eastern side of the Vimy Ridge memorial perched atop the famous battlefield in France.

Dallaire wants to see the new statue erected in Jacques-Cartier Park in Gatineau, Que., directly across the river from Parliament Hill and within sight of the offices of MPs and senators who would decide where and when to deploy troops in the future.

It's the sort of sober reflection the country needs in an age of hyper-partisan politics and emerging global crises, he said.

"As a nation, we will be called beyond our borders again," Dallaire said.

The idea started out as a way to commemorate both the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the country's 150th birthday, both of which take place in 2017. Wednesday marked the 97th anniversary of the battle.

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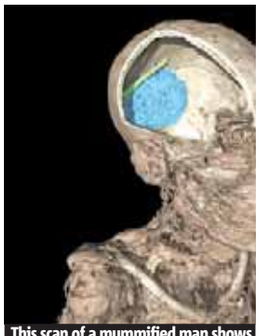
# Scans show details of mummy's body

**British Museum.**
Scientists 'thrilled' to discover embalming tools in mummy's skull


This scan of a mummified man shows the remains of the brain and a tool.
THE BRITISH MUSEUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Our fascination with mummies never gets old. The British Museum is using the latest technology to unwrap their ancient mysteries.

Scientists at the museum have used CT scans and sophisticated imaging software to go beneath the bandages, revealing skin, bones, preserved internal organs — and in one case a brain-scooping rod left inside a skull by embalmers.

The findings go on display next month in an exhibition that sets eight of the museum's mummies with detailed images of their insides and 3D printed replicas of some items buried with them.

Director Neil MacGregor said 6.8 million people visited the London institution last year, "and every one asked one of my colleagues, 'Where are the mummies?'"

The museum has been X-raying its mummies since the 1960s, but modern CT scanners give a vastly sharper image.

Just like live patients, the mummies chosen for the exhibition were scanned at London hospitals — though they were wheeled in after hours. The museum's scientists were thrilled to discover a spatula-like probe still inside one man's skull, along with a blob of brain.

"The tool at the back of the skull was quite a revelation, because embalmers' tools are something that we don't know much about," said John Taylor, museum mummy expert.

Another mummy, a woman who lived in Sudan around 700 A.D., was a Christian with a tattoo of the Archangel Michael's name on her inner thigh.

The star of the show is Tamut, a temple singer from a family of high-ranking priests. She died around 900 B.C.

Her brightly decorated casket has never been opened, but the scans have revealed her well-preserved body, her face and short-cropped hair.

"Come back in another five years and you will hear Tamut sing," MacGregor said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan this photo with your Metro News app to see a photo gallery of Prince George's royal tour of New Zealand.

## Plunket's princely play date

Britain's Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, holds Prince George, left, during a visit to Plunket nurse and parents group on Wednesday at Government House in Wellington, New Zealand. Plunket is a not-for-profit organization providing care for children and families. MARTY MELVILLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Airport scare**

### Man found with loaded handgun

A Virginia man was arrested at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport after a loaded handgun was found in his bag at a security checkpoint.

Maryland Transportation Authority Police say 36-year-old Ryan Watson of Stafford, Va., was charged.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Infertility**

### Italian court lifts ban on donations

Italy's constitutional court has struck down a ban on egg or sperm donation for infertile couples.

Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin, saying the law had effectively been "gutted," called on Parliament to revise legislation.

The conservative law reflects the influence on lawmakers by the Vatican, whose teaching forbids artificial procreation.

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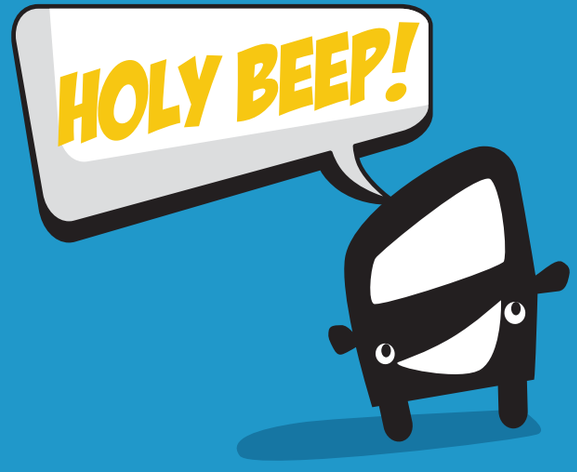


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## Putin turns up the heat on Ukraine

Masked pro-Russian activists guard barricades at the regional administration building in Donetsk, Ukraine, Wednesday. Russian President Vladimir Putin turned up the heat on Ukraine on Wednesday by threatening to demand advance payment for gas supplies, a move designed to exert economic pressure as Ukraine confronts possible bankruptcy, a mutiny by pro-Russian separatists in the east and a Russian military buildup across the border. EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pakistan

## Attempted murder case against baby prompts outcry

A nine-month-old Pakistani boy has been swept up in an attempted murder investigation that highlights the country's dysfunctional criminal justice system where even children are not immune from questionable legal decisions.

The toddler was brought to court last Friday as part of an investigation relating to an incident where residents in his neighbourhood clashed with police. He was granted bail by a judge.

The Jan. 31 altercation sparked police to open an attempted murder investigation into 30 people, including the father of the toddler and his unnamed son, said police officer Atif Zulfiqar, who is in charge of the area. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wounded by trains

## Honduran migrants ask Mexico to allow free passage

About a dozen Honduran migrants who lost legs and arms after falling from trains during northbound journeys across Mexico asked the country's Senate on Tuesday to stop the government's persecution of Central Americans, protect them from criminal gangs and contribute money to shelters for their care.

The migrants say that drug gang members and other criminals frequently beat, stab or push them from moving trains during their journeys through Mexico to the United States.

The migrants expressed hope that Mexico would agree to allow them transit visas or free passage without documents to cross the country on their way to the U.S. border. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


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# Graphic photo causes stir at Pistorius trial

Oscar Pistorius leaves the high court in Pretoria, South Africa, Wednesday.
THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Prosecutor takes aggressive line.** Accused Olympian refuses to look at image of slain girlfriend's bloodied head

Oscar Pistorius refused to look at a photo of his dead girlfriend's bloody head wounds while testifying at his murder trial Wednesday as the prosecutor urged the star athlete to "take responsibility" for killing her.

"It's time that you look at it," chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel said, setting the stage for a rigorous first day of cross-examination of Pistorius, the double-amputee Olympian charged with premeditated murder for shooting Reeva Steenkamp three times through a toilet door at his home.

"I remember," Pistorius said of Steenkamp's bloodied head, becoming distraught and then crying as he turned away from the gruesome image of the injuries he inflicted that were displayed next to him in a packed courtroom in South Africa's capital.

The showing of the photograph on TV screens in the courtroom caused gasps among spectators, who included Steenkamp's mother, June.

"I will not look at a picture where I'm tormented by what I saw and felt that night," Pistorius said. "As I picked Reeva up, my fingers touched her head. I remember. I don't have to look at a picture, I was there."

Pistorius, 27, says he shot Steenkamp in the pre-dawn hours on Valentine's Day — in the head, arm and hip — by mistake, thinking she was a dangerous intruder behind the door in his bathroom about to come out and attack him. Prosecutors charge he killed the 29-year-old intentionally. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 'Cuban Twitter.' Havana probes leak of half-million cellphone numbers

Cuba's government said Wednesday it has launched a probe into how hundreds of thousands of customer cellphone numbers fell into the hands of a U.S. government program that used them to secretly set up a mobile-based, Twitter-like social network on the island.

An Associated Press investigation revealed last week that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program used the data to build a subscriber base for the platform, dubbed ZunZuneo, with the idea that it could be used to stir unrest.

Cuba considers such USAID programs to be subversive attempts to topple its Communist-run government. Officials told reporters that state telecom Etecsa had not provided the data to any international operator or entity, and that the information was obtained illegally.

Washington officials have defended the ZunZuneo program as consistent with U.S. law and described it as "discreet," rather than covert or classified. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Canada Revenue Agency headquarters in Ottawa is shown on Friday. The 'Heartbleed' bug forced the tax agency on Wednesday to suspend its online filing services. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# 'Heartbleed' bug causes heartburn for the CRA

**Canada Revenue Agency.** If you haven't filed your taxes, you won't be able to until at least the weekend due to computer bug

With tax-return season in full swing, the Canada Revenue Agency suddenly locked down its online filing services on Wednesday, fearful of a new vulnerability in software used by much of the world to safeguard secure websites on the Internet.

All of the federal government's online systems were under review after word of the so-called "Heartbleed" computer bug prompted the tax agency to pull the plug on its electronic services as a precaution.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Heart-stopping oversight**

## *Bug went undetected for two years*

A confounding computer bug called "Heartbleed" is causing major security headaches across the Internet as websites scramble to fix the problem. Security researchers who uncovered the threat are particularly worried about the lapse because it went undetected for more than two years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Serving up McJobs**

## McD's Canada supersizes hiring of young people

McDonald's Canada and its franchisees are set to hire more than 6,000 young people at a one-day event on Thursday. Currently, 75 per cent of McDonald Canada employees are between the ages of 15 and 24.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**More focus on the self**

## Twitter redesigns for the Selfie Age

As Twitter looks to broaden its appeal beyond its 241 million users, the company is introducing a redesign of profile pages that includes bigger photos, more user controls and a distinct resemblance to Facebook.

"Moment by moment, your Twitter profile shows the world who you are," the company wrote in a blog post Tuesday. "Starting today, it will be even easier ... to express yourself through a new and improved Web profile."

As part of changes coming in the next few weeks, users who access Twitter via the Web will notice larger photos on their profile pages. Besides profile photos on the left corner of the page, the redesign includes a large banner photo that resembles the big cover photos on Facebook pages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Market Minute**

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# GIVE UP YOUR SUMMER JOB SEARCH

HE SAYS

**John Mazerolle**
metronews.ca

Now that summer break has arrived for you university and college students, it's time to decide what your dream job is, because you'll be thinking about it a lot while you rot in some summer-job cesspool.

That's probably hard to hear after eight difficult months of alcoholism and plagiarism, but it's the truth, as cold and hard as the nickels you'll be stealing from the tip jar.

One of the only guaranteed jobs out there this time of year is writing tips for people looking for summer jobs (ka-ching!), and in my experience most articles like this one are far too optimistic, even naive.

They're all about networking and gumption and stick-to-it-iveness (formerly known as perseverance). Just put yourself out there and good things will happen, the advice goes. Lies, I say.

It harkens back to my parents' youth in New Brunswick, where job seekers simply grabbed the 'help wanted' sign in the window and handed it to the boss, who was so impressed by an N.B.er with basic literacy skills and opposable thumbs that the new hire was well on their way to becoming Senior Vice-President of 'Help Wanted' Sign Distribution. Or so I've been told.

But when I was playing this game 15 years ago, it was pretty painful. Mostly it involved looking at recipe cards tacked to a corkboard at a youth employment centre and praying that "pay negotiable" meant six figures or seven figures.

I'm ignorant of today's job market — no doubt it involves e-recipe cards robo-tacked to a World Wide Corkboard — but since the media has dubbed today's youth demographic "generation screwed" I'm going to assume things aren't super.

From what I've heard, the modern job seeker requires three call-back interviews, including one in front of a board of directors, just to apprentice for the guy who fetches the coffee, and even then it's an unpaid internship until you're 34.

It's pretty much hopeless. But I'm legally obligated to provide a few tips, so:

- It's not what you do, it's who you do.
- Crack the so-called hidden job market by surfing to the Canada Job Bank and typing up up down down left right left right B A.
- BuzzFeed's Which Career Should You REALLY Have? is pretty much can't-miss.

But the biggest advice I would give anyone looking for a summer job is: Avoid it if you can.

I'm not even kidding. If you can avoid it at all — either because you're spoiled or you're cheap — then do it. Working in between school years makes the whole summer seem like life's longest Sunday, melancholy and muted even when it's nice out.

I know that supposedly makes me irresponsible then and now, but, trust me, you will not look back and say, "I wish I'd joined the workforce sooner."

Instead, inform your friends that you're looking to travel or party or vegetate and that they should join you. 'Help wanted,' in other words.

## ZOOM

# It's rather en-lightning

COURTESY CRAIG ECCLES/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO

### Electrical storms get oohs and ahhs

A thrill-seeking storm chaser captured the precise moment these giant lightning bolts lit up dark skies in a series of incredible storms.

Craig Eccles, a photographer from Perth, Western Australia, travels up to 500 kilometres in anticipation of a powerful storm – all for the sake of capturing that ferocious majesty on camera.

METRO

**Photog's viewpoint**

**"I have seen lightning bolts stretch for miles across the sky. For me, it's not all about the lightning bolt — sometimes it's about being in pitch black and in a split second, it appears as day."**

Craig Eccles, photographer from Perth, Western Australia

**How and when?**

- Electrical potential builds up inside clouds, between water droplets with either a positive and negative charge. This potential is discharged in the form of lightning
- The frequency of flashes worldwide is about 50 times per second (that's 4.3 million times a day).

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**MetroTube**

# One cat not a fan

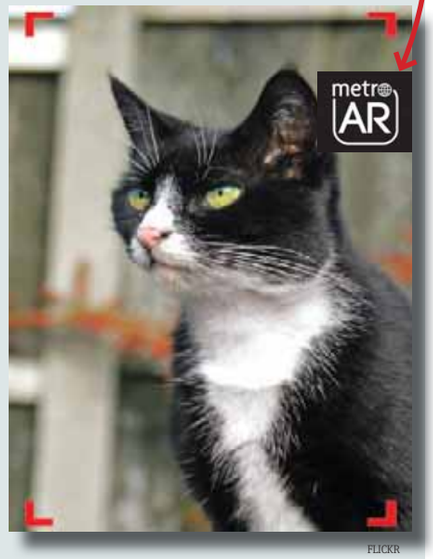
ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

**Much of the feisty behaviour we find so amusing about cats can be attributed to their displeasure for treading on their turf or ignoring their critically important needs.**

**"You think you can ignore my hunger at 5 a.m.? My raking at this blanket begs to differ."**

**This cat goes from fuzzy guitar groupie to feisty heckler based on a similar complaint. "Listen, Duane Allman. I'm in charge of licks around here."**

**Luckily, lame puns and their accompanying groans are for humans only. Or I'd be in a lot of trouble with my cat today.**

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# Golly glee whiz! Show choirs are gaining major momentum

**Show Choir Canada.**
Glee may have helped clubs take off, but the scene is still in its infancy in Canada

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

You can chalk up the explosion of show choirs in Canada as a case of life imitating art.

When Don Mills Collegiate Institute launched its show choir Northern Lights 12 years ago, the group had to travel south to find choirs to compete against.

"There was no one around doing what we were doing," says Cathy Whiteside, the group's founder. "Then Glee came along and everyone jumped on the band wagon."

Despite its ubiquity in parts of the U.S., it took the popular TV musical-dramedy to finally break show choir — choral singing and dancing — in Canada. By 2011, there were enough groups to necessitate a national competition.

School choirs have survived numerous rounds of funding cuts, says George Randolph, who co-founded Show Choir Canada Nationals, but students weren't satisfied with the material they were asked to perform.

"Young people were looking for more artistic expression in the types of music that was being taught."

Show choir, with its emphasis on contemporary Broadway and pop hits, all of sudden looked like the perfect antidote. "It's growing every year."

But glee remains in its infancy in Canada. Only schools from Ontario and Quebec are attending this year's nationals, although fundraising efforts are underway to bring groups from out West and East for 2015's installment.

Unlike schools in the States, where many students receive course credit, most Canadian show choirs are simply a fun extracurricular activity. "I don't care if we win or lose," says Whiteside. "The big thing that I hope my students get out of it is that they're part of the development of something."

Unlike schools in the U.S. where students may receive course credit, most Canadian show choirs are extra-curricular only.
COURTESY VICTORIA SCHWARZL/SHOW CHOIR CANADA

**Details**

**Show Choir Canada Nationals & Can-Am Invitational: April 12 & 13 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St.**

- See showchoircanada.com for more details.

**What goes into glee?**

**Although TV and film would tell you otherwise, show choirs don't just spontaneously sing and dance out their feelings. A lot of preparation goes into readying Northern Lights for each school year.**

- The group practises twice a week. One day for dance, the other for voice.
- Song selection happens in the spring. Usually these will be the songs the group sings for the rest of the year.
- Over the summer, the group's arranger breaks down each song into parts for each group member.
- Auditions are held in the fall so as best to incorporate incoming students.

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# Mark Rendall takes the helm of his acting career

Mark Rendall, right, stars in Algonquin, which opens in Toronto on Friday. CONTRIBUTED

**Algonquin.**
Toronto actor took some time away from the industry to reflect on his career choices

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Actor Mark Rendall prepared for his new film by not preparing.

At least not in the traditional sense.

He co-stars in Algonquin with Nicholas Campbell — who Rendall calls "a legend" — in a story about estranged fathers, newfound brothers and a young man who discovers what makes family truly important.

Rendall, who has been acting in films like Childstar and TV shows such as Hannibal since the age of 10, calls the new movie "the first dramatic lead I have done at a more mature point in my life."

More mature physically, but also in life experience.

"I took two years off from acting to go to school and find out what I really wanted," says the 25-year-old.

"I wanted to explore other things because I had been acting for so long. Algonquin is the first performance I did coming back onto it.

"I did so much in those two years that had I continued acting I wouldn't have experienced.

"I feel a good actor is someone who has lived and isn't pretending to emote or show an experience on screen, but is actually feeling it.

"Someone who has been there. I needed those experiences and time away to grow in ways that I feel acting would have sheltered me from."

He continued leading a creative life, just one away from the camera.

"When I wasn't acting, I was taking instrument building classes.

"That is a real passion of mine. I really respect Daniel Day Lewis for learning how to become a cobbler.

"I think that is beautiful, because one thing you miss when acting is working with your hands or doing really organic artistic endeavours that you're in control of.

"In the end, with instrument making I'm the one editing, directing, buying the material and producing the end result. It's an individual and personal process — more so than acting, I think.

"Acting is not a one-man operation. It's a team, it's like being part of a family for a while with lots of people working to make something.

"There is always a director and a writer and you're always kind of portraying someone else's dream, but to actually be in control of your own dream is amazing."

**Quoted**

**"I feel a good actor is someone who has lived and isn't pretending to emote or show an experience on screen, but is actually feeling it"**
Mark Rendall on the art of acting

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

**The Word**

## *Gwynnie might need practice at conscious uncoupling*

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York

Moses Martin, the son of Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin, turned eight on Tuesday, and Gwyneth posted this sweet pic on Twitter for his birthday. Yeah, happy birthday, Moses — now run and play, because we need to talk to your mom about something.

Check out her hand in the photo. Despite her much publicized "conscious uncoupling" from Chris Martin, it appears that Gwyneth is still wearing her wedding ring. That's assuming this is a current photo, of course, which seems likely — Moses' "Aw, Mom" expression certainly looks like an eight-year-old boy to me.

So what do you think is the deal with the ring? I'd say maybe she's not ready to remove it, but I don't think Gwyneth Paltrow has ever shown that kind of emotional weakness in her life. And I say that with tremendous and earnest respect. She's an oil-pulling, hydrangea-stroking pillar of steel. No, the ring must be a deliberate step in her conscious uncoupling. Unless her conscious uncoupling has gone so well that she's already remarried to someone else.

**Twitter**

**@TheRock**
Alright.. 3 hrs sleep, but kickin' jet lag's ass. Its time to work.. Good morning from lovely London.

**@ladygaga**
just basically ate all the birthday cake I was supposed to eat last week but had shows so I dieted it was so good. it was yummy yums

**@WhitneyCummings**
People: please make your emails funnier in general

## After 27 years, Tom Ford and his partner have fashionably late nuptials

Fashion icon Tom Ford is officially off the market, as he and his partner of 27 years, former Vogue Hommes International editor Richard Buckley, recently tied the knot in a very quiet ceremony, according to Vogue. Ford let the news slip casually while speaking at the Regent Street Apple Store opening in London earlier this week. "We are now married, which is nice," Ford said. "I know that was just made legal in the U.K., which is great. We were married in the States."

Tom Ford

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

## Wish granted: Tina & Amy to star in sister comedy

How is it that we can put a man on the moon, but Amy Poehler and Tina Fey have only starred in one film together? And that film was Baby Mama? (Mean Girls doesn't count. They had supporting roles in that.) Luckily, things are about to change. According to the Hollywood Reporter, the stars of 30 Rock and Parks and Recreation will co-star in The Nest, a dark period thriller. Just kidding, it's a comedy, obviously. The Nest is about adult sisters (they're playing sisters!) who find out that their parents are selling their childhood home, so they decide to throw one last big party there. In the process, they learn to mature. The Nest will be directed by Jay Roach, who also directed Pitch Perfect. It's written by Paula Pell, a former Saturday Night Live writer who also played Pete's wife on 30 Rock.

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Closet alert: Get clutter under control. East Coast celeb decor expert Jordan Hipson shows us how!



LIFE 3

# Spring clean your style

**Won't you let them live?!** In the spirit of reducing, reusing and recycling, we look at three ways to deal with your done-for duds this spring without tossing them in the trash

ELIZABETH BEDDALL
elizabeth.beddall
@metronews.ca

Perfectly distressed denim jeans, how I've loved you so, but it's time to let you go. ISTOCK

Whether you've stuck to your New Year's resolutions or not, the sun is coming out and revealing that you are a different person than you were back when the halls were being decked.

Spring is almost here and it's time to reassess that wardrobe.

But what do you do with those piles of threads that no longer thrill you?

Let us give you a few fashionable tips for figuring that out.

### Sell 'em

Sites such as Craigslist, Kijiji and eBay Canada have made it easy for regular folks to become retail mavericks.

If you've got a few pieces that you picked out in a fit of passion, but never quite figured out how to flaunt, selling them to a more suitable style hunter might be the way to go.

But if you've never opened up shop on a web-based platform, it may be difficult to know how to get visitors to even give your garments a second look.

London-based luxury gown designer Farishta Zarify, who won the eBay Canada 2013 Entrepreneur of the Year award for her successful online store, says it's all about the visuals.

"It's online shopping, so you're taking away the experience of seeing the item in person," says Zarify, who recommends taking plenty of photographs of each garment in proper lighting and with a simple background.

"Also make sure to list all the defining characteristics like brand name, size and measurements so the customer knows exactly what they're going to get."

### Donate 'em

There's arguably no better way to feel good about saying goodbye to your garments than by giving them away to a great cause.

There are plenty of organizations across Canada that will accept your gently used clothing for donation. These institutions include, are certainly not limited to, The Salvation Army and Clothesline for the Canadian Diabetes Association.

And what if spring has brought with it a brand new job and you no longer need that blazer and those flashy flats?

Turn your charitable sights to Dress for Success, a worldwide organization with locations across Canada, which helps to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing them with professional attire received via drop-off donation.

"In the process of picking out an outfit and having a conversation with a volunteer stylist, our clients are transformed," says executive director of Dress for Success's Toronto chapter, Paige Souter.

"They start to believe that the next chapter in their lives will be better than the part that they're leaving."

And if you've had a pile accumulating in your closet for ages but lack the means to lug it to your local donation box, you can always pay a quick visit to donationtown.org, an online directory of charities that offer donation pick-up service.

So now that you've figured out a way to curb the closet chaos, go ahead and get 'packin!

### Rework 'em

**Welcome to the generation of DIY, where every item can be manipulated into something even more magnificent. So don't give up on that garment – it's got life in it yet! To prove this to you, we asked Alana Kumar, the Victoria, B.C.-based creator of DIY blog dreamcreate.ca, to suggest four ways to breathe new life into your wardrobe:**

- Use your scissors! Sometimes clothes have unnecessary ruffles, bows, etc. Say a prayer to the DIY gods and start having fun. Cutting ruffles can transform a girly top or dress into a much more classic silhouette, and give your piece a second chance.
- Turn a dress into a skirt.Take a maxi dress and simply tuck the top under. Now you have a new maxi skirt that you can pair with any top.
- For pieces with a few layers like a dress, try removing the top layer with a pair of scissors, sometimes the "shell" of the dress is more beautiful and simple than the original.
- For pieces with a few layers like a dress, try removing the top layer with a pair of scissors, sometimes the "shell" of the dress is more beautiful and simple than the original.

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# Quintessential Thai flavours compliment veg

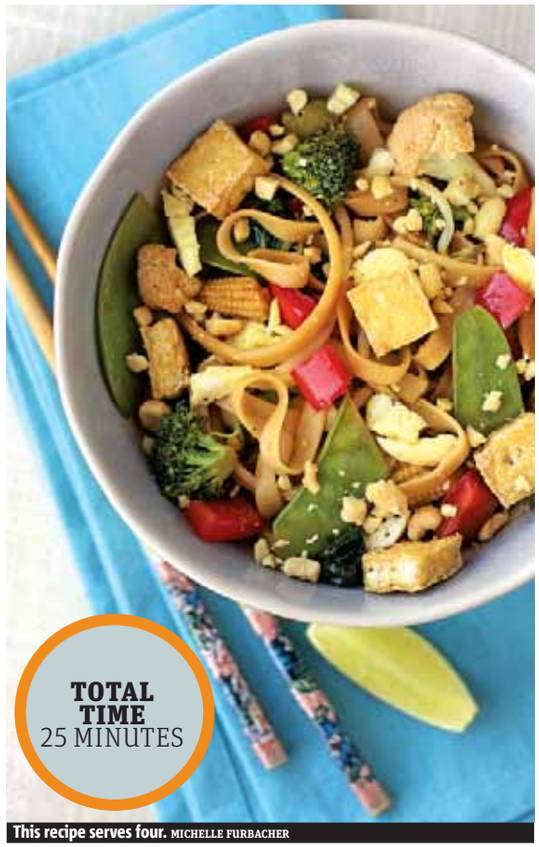
**Vegetable Pad Thai.**
Everyone's favourite street dish from Thailand goes vegetarian

"(Pad Thai) is a traditional national dish served all over Thailand. It's sweet and spicy with a hint of tartness thanks to the lime, and features a wide variety of vegetables," writes Linda Woolven in The All-New Vegetarian Passport.

**1.** Cook the noodles according to the package instructions.

**2.** In a large frying pan, heat the oil. Add the tofu and cook, stirring, for about 7 minutes, or until slightly browned. Add the egg (if using) and cook, stirring, for about 2 minutes. Add the bok choy, bell pepper, broccoli and cauliflower and cook, stirring, for 3 to 4 minutes. Add the mung bean sprouts, snow peas, baby corn, bamboo shoots, soy sauce, rice vinegar and chili flakes and cook, stirring, for 3 to 4 minutes. Add the noodles and peanuts and heat through. Serve with lime wedges to garnish.

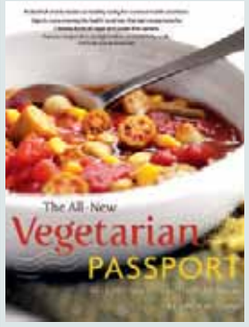
FROM THE ALL-NEW VEGETARIAN PASSPORT BY LINDA WOOLVEN (WHITECAP, 2013)



This recipe serves four. MICHELLE FURBACHER

**Cookbook of the Week**

## Around the world




Discover the best vegetarian delicacies from all over the world without leaving your kitchen. In The All-New Vegetarian Passport, Linda Woolven exposes readers to international flavours that also help to create a healthy new relationship between your body and your plate. The book boasts 350 of Woolven's favourite recipes and is split into sections that include North Africa and The Middle East, The Mediterranean, Europe, India, Asia, Latin America and The Caribbean, North America and more. METRO

## FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

**Ingredients**

- 6 oz (175 g) wide brown-rice Thai noodles
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) first cold pressed extra virgin olive oil
- 2 oz (60 g) extra-firm tofu, cubed
- 1 egg, beaten (optional; omit for diabetes, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and vegan diet)
- 2 baby bok choy, chopped
- 1 medium-size red bell pepper, diced (omit for rheumatoid arthritis )
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) broccoli florets
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) cauliflower florets
- 1 cup (250 ml) mung bean sprouts
- Handful each of snow peas, canned baby corn, drained and rinsed; canned bamboo shoots, drained and rinsed
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) soy sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) rice vinegar
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) chili flakes
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) crushed unsalted peanuts
- lime wedges

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# LEAVE A LASTING IMPRESSION

You have just seven seconds to make a first impression. And a ready smile, neat and appropriate attire, and fresh breath, especially, are all part of making a good one.

On the other hand, bad breath (as well as being grouchy, wearing ill-fitting clothing, and playing with your hair or moustache) leaves a lasting bad impression.

Here are times when good oral hygiene and body care are especially important.

**THE COCKTAIL PARTY:** There is no way around close contact at a social gathering. You are rubbing shoulders with strangers, having quick conversations with old friends, and spotting people across the room that you would really like to meet.

**A JOB INTERVIEW:** Problems like bad breath can definitely spoil your chances in an important job interview. There is going to be a handshake and a discussion, perhaps in close vicinity.

**A FIRST DATE:** Meeting a potential partner for the first time is stressful as it is. You don't want to worry about your breath. And you certainly don't want to find out that this person takes your breath away — in a bad way.

**KARAOKE:** Sharing a stage puts you in very close quarters with another person, and if you are belting out a song together into one microphone, yikes.

** Crest Complete toothpaste fights cavities. To ensure this product is right for you, always read and follow the label.*

**THE AIRPORT:** Whether you are arriving at the airport yourself or you are picking someone up, there are going to be hugs and kisses with all the greetings.

**DINNER PARTY:** Getting together around a dinner table is what you do to have fun, and you can count on lots of hugs and kisses at the beginning and end.

VLADIMIR GJORGIEV/SHUTTERSTOCK

## BAD BREATH CAN BE A BUMMER

Research has shown halitosis is a confidence killer, and can make a person super sensitive about breath problems.

The sooner you determine if you have a problem, the sooner you can do something about it.

To find out:

- Cover your mouth and nose with your hand, and exhale. Now breathe in through your nose. Does the air smell bad?
- Watch how people react when you talk. Do they stand at a distance, or act a little odd after you speak?
- If your partner starts to avoid kissing you on the mouth, there may be an issue. But it may be their breath, too.

What to do? Improve your oral hygiene by brushing your teeth, flossing, and using a dental mouthwash, regularly. Talk to your dentist about your concerns, and be sure to always carry mints and mouthwash, too.

# REFRESHING TIPS FOR MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

You have been thinking about this moment for a while. Now the lights are low, the two of you are alone, love is definitely in the air. You lean in, close your eyes and purse your lips for that first kiss — and wait and wait.

OMG. Your date has recoiled. Was it your breath?

Bad breath is actually one of society's oldest and most troublesome social problems. Called halitosis, it can be caused by different factors, including poor oral hygiene, strong smelling foods such as fish, onion, garlic, and even coffee, smoking, and dental and health problems. It is the third most frequent reason — after cavities and periodontal disease — that people see their dentist.

Often, a relationship problem has spurred on the visit. Since sense of smell is so closely linked to your emotions, sweet smelling breath has everything to do with love, kissing and connecting — or not connecting.

### SINGLE — AND NOT LOVING IT

Bad breath is often referred to as a social life killer. In fact, in research, sufferers say it ruins their life.

Not surprisingly, single people with bad breath often have problems dating, and getting married. Furthermore, they are so anxious about their breath in social settings that they avoid face-to-face encounters and can become loners — and lonely.

Thirty-four per cent of survey participants with halitosis said their bad breath made them hesitant to speak to others.

SANTIAGO CORNEJO/SHUTTERSTOCK

If you are starting to date someone you really like who has bad breath, try some subtle hints such as eating mints after dinner, avoiding strong smelling foods, and even talking about your own oral hygiene habits.

### MARRIED — AND NOT LOVING IT EITHER

In research, sufferers say bad breath causes them to sleep separately from their spouse.

While couples who have been together for a while can be forgiving and understanding, bad breath can still be difficult to ignore, especially in the bedroom. Halitosis is often the reason behind partner rejection and marital problems.

If bad breath is ruining intimate moments, be honest but be kind. Encourage your partner to brush their teeth, floss, and rinse with a mouthwash at least twice a day. This will prevent bacteria from settling in the mouth. If there is a new chronic bad breath issue, check in with the dentist, too.

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# Bells and whistles now mandatory

**Amenities.** Discerning consumers are looking for the latest trends in highrise living

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

The Daniels Corporation has included basketball courts in three of its condo projects, including the Cinema Tower gym. CONTRIBUTED

Toronto being the condo capital of North America makes for a rather competitive marketplace, so it's no wonder that developers are constantly dreaming up new ways to attract buyers and differentiate their offerings from the competition.

Consumers have also become more discerning about the frills they want, demanding the latest trends in condo amenities.

A number of GTA developments have gone all-out in delivering unique facilities and services, such as Easton's Dundas Square Gardens, with five outdoor terraces (16,000 square feet in total) — one of the largest rooftop spaces in Toronto.

The largest garden terrace is 8,000 square feet of landscaping located on the 18th floor, including an infinity edge pool, cascading water feature, stone firepit and numerous BBQ pits. The second floor will provide residents with a library with study spaces, meeting spaces and guest suites.

The Daniels Corporation has found that indoor basketball courts are popular with buyers, and feature them in their building athletic facilities at Cinema Tower, Limelight Condominiums in Mississauga and One Park Place South in Regent Park. The court walls are glassed in floor to ceiling and are lit for night games.

According to Daniels' spokesperson Megan Aird, "We go above and beyond to come up with innovative ideas such as gardening plots, basketball courts and rock-climbing walls to strengthen the physical and social fabric of our communities."

ME Living condos at Markham and Ellesmere offers a multi-seasonal outdoor recreation area that functions as a pond in the summer and skating rink during the winter.

Developer Lash Group has worked closely with Ward 38 councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker to ensure the project fits in with plans for the Markham Road and Ellesmere community.

"In discussions with the councillor, we felt we wanted people to get out and be with their neighbours — they could go for a skate in the winter or a stroll around the pond in the summer," says Lash president Larry Blankenstein.

Chaz Yorkville has endeavoured to create a hotel-like atmosphere by pampering residents with all the accoutrements of a high-calibre spa.

One-of-a-kind in Toronto, the relaxation studio offers massage chairs and innovative dry-hydrotherapy massage beds (where you float on a bed of warm water while a strong, pliant covering keeps you dry so you never have to put down your iPod). Multiple high-pressure water jets deliver a full-body or targeted zone treatment.

The ME Living community space features a tree-lined courtyard with a water feature that doubles as a summer pond and winter skating rink, as well as a rooftop outdoor pool. CONTRIBUTED

Jutting out from the 31st and 32nd levels of Chaz Yorkville is a two-storey cantilevered box, framed in white concrete and illuminated at night. The Chaz Club is a lounge and dining space for the building's residents. CONTRIBUTED

Buying a house?

## *Don't forget to draw up a will*

**I recently purchased my first condo and it was suggested at the time of the transaction that I should have a will drawn up. I'm a young guy and don't really have any other assets to speak of. Should I still consider a will and how would I go about this?**

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

You know what they say: Your home is probably the single largest investment you will make in your lifetime. If something were to happen to you, where would you want the proceeds of the sale of your condo to go?

If the answer is anything other than your next of kin — in your case, probably your parents — you need a will.

Also, who will look after your estate when you have passed away? It's a big responsibility and requires thought and planning. Maybe your parents would not be the best people for the job?

For a simple will, you can return to your real estate lawyer who typically will be quite capable of drafting straightforward wills and powers of attorney. I would not leave this planning process to fate. You never know when life will throw you a curveball.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca.

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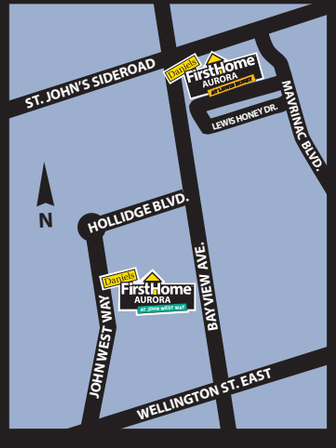


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# Living the high life at High Park

HighPark Condominiums' Parkside Collection. CONTRIBUTED

## Meet the condo

- **What.** HighPark Condominiums: The Parkside Collection
- **Builder.** The Daniels Corporation
- **Designer.** Tomas Pearce
- **Location.** 1844 Bloor St. W. in High Park
- **Website.** danielshighpark.com
- **Pricing.** From $699,900 to $884,900
- **Building.** 12, two-storey townhomes
- **Sizes.** From 1,322 to 1,580 sq. ft.
- **Occupancy.** Summer 2016

## The project overview

The Parkside Collection is a limited offering of two-storey walkouts. Already under construction, the townhomes will front the streets of Oakmount and Pacific. The glass-clad residence will welcome homeowners with a spacious front-entry courtyard and extensive landscaping.

## Location and transit

Located on Bloor Street in the city's west end, the townhomes are conveniently located between the Keele and High Park subway stations. A quick drive down Parkside Drive gets motorists to the Gardiner Expressway. You can be in the downtown core within a half-hour.

## In the neighbourhood

Situated directly across from Toronto's 400-acre High Park, this highly desirable and walkable neighbourhood borders on Bloor West Village, a vibrant streetscape of boutique shops, services and many fine restaurants and cafés.

## Building amenities

Residents will have full access to a 24-hour concierge and the Parkside Club with indoor and outdoor amenities on three floors. The second floor sports a climbing wall, weight studio, home theatre, sauna and outdoor gardening plots.

Condo market

## *Consumer confidence returns*

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

The GTA is a tale of two markets. You can't properly assess the strength and stability of the highrise market without first looking at its ground-related counterpart.

Constrained land supply has caused a shortage of ground-related homes in the market. The fundamental law of supply and demand is at play in the GTA and prices of ground-related housing have increased dramatically.

So what does this have to do with condos?

The GTA continues to grow by up to 100,000 people and 50,000 jobs each year. To accommodate this growth, our industry must create between 35,000 and 40,000 new homes per year.

There are currently about 250 condo projects under construction. In addition to providing an affordable option for new-home buyers, the highrise market in the GTA creates up to 500 jobs for every project introduced into the market.

Pricing of new condos in the GTA has stabilized and consumer confidence has returned. In fact, January 2014 was recorded as the best January for highrise sales in an entire decade. If you're in the market for a condo, there is no better time to buy than now.

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# The perfect bedside companion

A bedside table is the last thing you see at night and the first thing to help you out of bed in the morning. For most of us, it's a bookshelf, lamp and clock holder, medicine cabinet and refreshment centre. Choosing the best nightstand is essential. Here are a few guidelines to getting it right

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

**Retro living: Shelving built in to the headboard takes up barely any floor space. Andes White Bed, $900, CB2.com.**

## Size it up

- For good scale, choose a nightstand that is approximately half the width of the bed
- Ideally, your nightstand should be two to four inches higher than the top of your mattress. Modern beds tend to have very low mattress heights while traditional sets are quite high. Note: Mattress heights vary from 18 inches (from floor to top of mattress) for a modern bed to as high as 36 inches for a traditional bed.
- The depth of the nightstand should be less than 24 inches, which will make getting out of bed easier.

## Function junction

- A drawer is a necessity for medications.
- Open shelves keep reading materials accessible.
- Small dressers and chests with multi-drawers are great for small spaces. One on each side of the bed can replace the storage of a regular dresser in the bedroom.
- Open legs give a lighter look to the nightstand and keep a cramped room feeling spacious.

**Perfectly modern: Hidden storage, open shelves and display make for a great bedside companion. Canadian designer Tim Antoniuk's Arctic 1 Nightstand, $630, UrbanMode.com.**

## Style savvy

- Mirrored finishes offer a transitional style and give a reflective, open feeling to a small room. If choosing a wood finish, match it to the bed or other furnishings you have in the bedroom.
- A matching nightstand on each side of the bed help create continuity. This helps to reduce the visual clutter when decorating.
- Topping a tired antique nightstand with grey marble or stone will protect and give a new look to an old treasure.
- Many of the '70s retro-inspired beds have built-in nightstands for a sleek look.

**Small space winner: A mirrored, slim-styled console dresser saves space, reflects light and offers great storage. Hayworth Console Chest, $560, Pier1.ca.**

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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# What's hot on the condo market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

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CONTACT: 416-966-3737, SOUTHHILLONMADISON.COM

### 2. Beaches

Beaches area penthouse condo, two bedrooms, three bathrooms. Head over to 9 Boardwalk Dr. on April 12 and 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.

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### 3. Parkdale

The Carnaby Collection by Streetcar, new townhomes and penthouse lofts. April 12 from 12 to 3 p.m. Head over to 8 Gladstone Ave.

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Spruce up your favourite outdoor room now, then relax in it all summer long. CONTRIBUTED

# All hands on deck

**Get on board.** Paul Lafrance has timely tips to get outdoor space shipshape for summer

The days are finally getting warmer and it's almost time to enjoy our backyards again. But after a long, rough winter what used to be an outdoor oasis may be in shambles. Luckily, deck guru Paul Lafrance has some tips and tricks for easy weekend makeovers that will keep your outdoor space beautiful, inviting, and stress-free for the summer ahead.

**Stain the deck**

Guaranteed this winter had snow and ice accumulating on your deck. If you don't have composite decking, you need to avoid those water stains on the wood by sanding and staining it. Do this as soon as the weather hits 10 degrees so that you are doing the work when it's still a bit chilly outside instead of on a beautiful day when you'd rather be on the deck relaxing.

**Consider composite**

If the structure of your deck is sound and the framework is lasting, then the best possible thing you can do for your sanity and the resale value of your home is to replace the deck boards with composite decking. This is easily a weekend project and will save you hours of maintenance in the future when you simply need to wash it clean instead of staining it.

**Rethink your railings**

To add more of a design flair to your deck, consider other options outside of the traditional wooden railings. Change them to glass for an upgraded view, or choose colours like black, white, or bronze to better suit your taste. You can even add railings with mirrors for a more interesting look.

**Light it up**

I cannot stress enough how important lighting is to design, and how much it can transform an outdoor space. You don't need to be an electrician to incorporate LED lights with your deck, or to add lights that will help you see better and boost the ambience at night.

**Invest in furnishings**

Deck furniture has been completely revolutionized from the past — there are outdoor furnishings now that are being mistaken for living room furniture. You can make over your whole space with some chairs and tables, or even create the effect of a room by adding an umbrella to a dining or living space outdoors.

**Add privacy screens**

Privacy screens are a great way to not only add privacy to your backyard space, but to also create a focal point and a creative "wow" for guests. Instead of simply copying the fencing that you have and making a screen out of it, consider incorporating something more decorative that suits your design tastes. You can choose anything from faux stone to something with a hanging water feature. If you can see it from inside it makes the outdoor space even more inviting.

**Decked Out**

Watch Paul Lafrance in all-new seasons of Decked Out and Disaster Decks, Tuesdays beginning at 9 p.m. ET/PT on HGTV Canada.

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# Have a DIY Easter

Style gurus Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman are getting ready for the Easter holiday and shared these easy, cost-effective DIY projects to help you get into the spring spirit. For more seasonal ideas, watch Steven and Chris weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC.

ALL PHOTOS AND TEXT PROVIDED BY STEVEN AND CHRIS

## Paper nest with personalized Easter egg

Nothing makes a guest feel more welcome than a personalized (and pretty) place setting.

- Colourful magazine pages
- Paper shredder
- Dyed eggs (1 egg per guest)
- Acrylic paint and small paintbrush for fine art
- Letter stencils to fit the size of an egg
- Table setting and linens

**Method:**
1. Rip several colourful pages from old magazines and shred with a paper shredder.
2. Take a handful and create a round nest measuring 3 to 4 inches in diameter.
3. Dye eggs in pastel colours or to match the palette of your dining table decor. Tip: To save time, purchase coloured eggs from a discount or craft store.
4. Add the initial of your guest's name, either painted by hand or stencilled using an accent colour.

## Doily charger plates

Give those traditional doilies a contemporary spin with this über-easy DIY.

- Paper doilies in 2 sizes (8 and 10 inches) from discount or craft store (2 doilies per place setting). Tip: As an alternative, use vintage doilies dyed with fabric dye
- Pastel-coloured acrylic paint
- Medium-size art paintbrush
- Table setting and linens
- Small vase to rest on salad plate

**Method:**
1. Paint doilies a pretty pastel hue or to match your table decor. Paint all doilies the same colour or two complementary colours for each place setting.
2. Allow doilies to dry (best to do prior to the day you are expecting your guests).
3. Place the larger doily under each dinner plate and the smaller doily on the plate (your salad plate will sit on top).
4. Add fresh flowers such as tulips or daffodils to each individual place setting.

## Children's Easter place setting

- Colourful napkins, white paper and sticker label
- Bamboo or plastic cutlery
- Easter basket, bowl or porcelain berry container
- Shredded paper for Easter nest (can be found at any craft store or shred your own colourful paper)
- Plastic and/or chocolate Easter eggs
- Vinyl table cloth, scrapbook paper for placemats, milk bottles and straws, melamine or paper plates

**Method:**
1. Use vinyl table cloth to cover table or create a runner. Place scrapbook paper on table cloth/runner as placemats.
2. Cut pieces of paper measuring 3 to 4 inches wide, wrap around napkins and seal at the back with clear adhesive tape. Write each child's name on a label and place on the paper. Place plastic/wood cutlery between the napkin and name label.
3. Fill the baskets with paper straw, place Easter eggs inside and rest on plates.
4. Add milk bottles to place settings and scatter remaining Easter eggs around placemats.

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# Green thumb or no, these are good to grow

**Indoor decor and more.** Plants pretty enough to eat or sturdy enough to neglect

Homeowners who are wary of growing plants indoors, especially if they travel often or are prone to forgetting to water, might want to consider a variety of low-maintenance plants that breathe life and design into a room.

"I've actually been starting to put plants into all of my projects," says Kyla Bidgood, an interior designer. "They just bring a whole other level of life and cosiness to a space."

The Victoria-based Bidgood says there are easy ways to bring plants into a space, even for those without a green thumb.

### Living on air

"A great way to add some greenery to a space that is really low maintenance is air plants," she says.

Tillandsia, also known as air plants, are native to the forests, mountains and deserts of Central and South America, the southern United States and the West Indies. They don't need soil because water and nutrients are absorbed through the leaves, and their roots serve only as an anchor.

"They are awesome, and you can put them in everything," says Bidgood. "There are lamps where you can put something in the base of the lamp, and you can pop an air plant in there."

### High and low

Combining plants of various heights and kinds is a great way to create dimension and design in a room.

In her living room, Bidgood combined a tall blood orange tree with a smaller rubber tree to create a visually interesting vignette.

### Citrus appeal

"If you have the natural light and have a green thumb, citrus plants are great," she says. "They produce beautiful fruit you can actually eat, but they do need more water and light."

Bringing edible plants indoors, like citrus trees, not only adds colour and life to a room, but it also allows homeowners to have a taste of spring in their home year round.

### Edible flowers

Judy Kenzie, owner of Strathcona 1890 Urban Seed Collections, grows her garden in containers around her yard and indoors.

"This year, I tried to grow edible flowers inside," she says. "I wanted to try it and germinate, and grow them inside."

According to Kenzie, growing edible plants inside often requires some experimentation, and a willingness to see the plants homeowners may already have as food.

"What a lot of people don't realize are things like pansies that you can buy as indoor potted plants are edible flowers," she says. "You could have those flowers on your window sill and they would be beautiful, and you can throw them in your salad."

Pea plants are another option for injecting pops of colour into your kitchen, while also being great to add to salads and sandwiches.

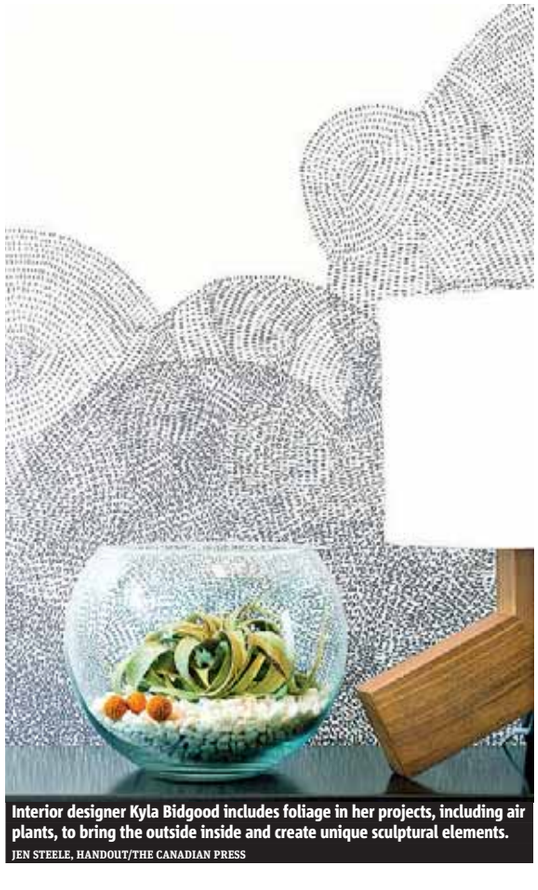
Even though a homeowner would have to pollinate the plant to get peas, Kenzie explains, the rest of the plant is edible from the flowers to the leaves.

### Greens year-round

A piece of equipment Kenzie hopes will become a fixture in every kitchen is a grow light, which allows homeowners to grow lettuces and salad greens year-round.

Grow lights are commonly used by gardeners to help start seeds indoors in the spring, but Kenzie says homeowners could use them to nurture greens to supply their household, and even their neighbours, throughout the cold winter months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Interior designer Kyla Bidgood includes foliage in her projects, including air plants, to bring the outside inside and create unique sculptural elements.

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metro

# FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Thursday, April 10, 2014

# Market roundup

## Metro takes a cross-Canada trip to find out how far $300,000 to $350,000 will go in today's housing market.

COMPILED BY GEORDON OMAND

### Calgary

This cowtown condo, deep in Calgary's south end, is sure to make any homeowner proud. Built by award-winning Homes by Avi, it offers 1,184 square feet of living space, complete with espresso cabinets and an island in the kitchen. A double garage, fenced backyard and private concrete patio complete this stylish south-end home. Asking price is $344,000.

LISTING: RE/MAX HOUSE OF REAL ESTATE

### Ottawa

This three-storey, award-winning townhouse is all ready for a homeowner. Asking price is $314,500. There are two regular bedrooms on the third floor, as well as a four-piece, ensuite washroom off a third master bedroom, also on the third floor. The second level houses a large chef's kitchen with dining and living room areas, while a mud room and family room are located on the first floor.

LISTING: EXIT REALTY MATRIX

### Regina

This family-friendly home includes four bedrooms and four washrooms, as well as a generous sized lawn and an oversized single-vehicle, attached garage. Asking price is $339,900. The square footage comes in at slightly more than 1,400 square feet. Recent renovations involved an additional two-piece washroom and allowing for direct backyard access on the main level. The yard includes an outdoor skating rink and a hot tub, both negotiable.

LISTING: ROYAL LEPAGE REGINA REALTY

### Halifax

Comfort and convenience combine in this well cared for and tastefully updated three-bedroom home. Besides 1,144 square feet of space, good insulation and new windows make for a high EnerGuide rating. The property is located close to the shops and restaurants of nearby Hydrostone Market. Asking price is $348,900. A professional paint job is promised prior to closing.

LISTING: KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

### Saskatoon

An abundance of south-facing windows ensures ample natural light for this corner unit townhouse, located on a quiet crescent in the south Saskatoon residential community of Stonebridge. Built a scant five years ago and boasting 1,337 square feet, hardwood floors, granite countertops and an upstairs washroom skylight, the asking price for this property is $334,900.

LISTING: HALLMARK REALTY & ASSOCIATES LTD.

### Toronto

While not exactly downtown living, this three-bedroom, two-bathroom home fits the first-timer's price point. It is located close to transit, shopping and schools. The open-concept design includes laminate floor and garage access from the inside, all for an asking price of $324,900. An additional monthly fee of $190 goes toward snow removal and lawn care.

LISTING: CENTURY 21 PERCY FULTON LTD.

### London

A walkout, wraparound deck overlooking a large lot makes this three-bedroom east London house shine. A vaulted ceiling and cultured stone fireplace with stained mantel only add to the elegant decor, along with decorative columns, contemporary spindle rail and open-concept design. The two-storey property includes four bedrooms, three washrooms — two full, one half — and an attached double garage. Asking price is $324,275.

LISTING: RE/MAX CENTRE CITY REALTY

### Edmonton

This three-bedroom, two-storey townhouse in Miller Park Estates boasts a fully finished walk-out basement, complete with family room and two-piece washroom downstairs. There are four total washrooms, along with a gas fireplace in the living room, a rear deck and patio and green space behind the unit. The $342,500 asking price is helped by low condo fees, which run $178 per month.

LISTING: CENTURY 21 A.L.L. STARS REALTY

### Vancouver

This spacious one-bedroom, one-washroom condominium is a stone's throw away from Jericho Beach, making it a perfect location for pet lovers. The property includes stainless steel appliances, stone counters and dark hardwood floors, as well as a 16-foot south-facing patio. Nearby shopping and an enormous master bedroom make this 656-square-foot, $342,500 unit a steal of a deal.

LISTING: SUTTON GROUP WEST COAST REALTY

### Winnipeg

Located in the heart of Winnipeg's colourful and cosmopolitan Exchange District, this condo is housed in a gorgeous boutique-style building. Exposed brick and beam design complement a unique 1,100-square-foot floor plan. Stainless steel appliances are included in the $329,900 asking price. Oversized windows, a huge island-style kitchen and oversized hot water tanks round out the deal.

LISTING: RE/MAX PERFORMANCE REALTY

# Become interested in rates

Borrowing money to buy a home is likely going to be the biggest financial commitment you ever make. So it's important to do your research and understand what you're getting into.

Here's a quick guide.

**Interest rates**

Homebuyers have enjoyed low interest rates for a while now. "And I think they're going to hold for several more months," said Toronto mortgage broker David Smith. "By the fall, we're probably going to see 3.09 and 3.1 perhaps, and these are still extraordinary low rates and cheap money."

**Down payment**

Put down at least 20 per cent of the home price, advises Will Britton, a financial adviser in Kingston, Ont., and a member of Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada.

You will qualify for a conventional mortgage loan, which is equal to or less than 80 per cent of the lending value of the property. Otherwise, a high-ratio mortgage requires mortgage loan insurance from a provider such as Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and that will cost more.

**Pre-approval**

It's important to be pre-approved for a mortgage by a bank. "Given how competitive the marketplace is, if your offer has a condition on financing, you won't win the property," Smith said.

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It's a good idea to carefully consider what you want in a house first before you start looking. STEPHEN COBURN/SHUTTERSTOCK

# Understand the process

JENNIFER TAPLIN
For Metro

Buying a house can be an overwhelming financial decision.

First-time homebuyers tend to be highly educated and are quite thorough with their research by using online tools to find potential properties and calculate costs. But they aren't as confident when it comes to mortgages and the technical process of buying a house, said Terri Gibbons, with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, who is based in North York, Ont.

"It is important for first-time homebuyers to determine how much they can afford before they begin the process, keeping in mind all of the upfront costs," Gibbons said. "It is recommended that first-time buyers seek out a mortgage professional and ask lots of questions and clarify their understanding along the way."

It's also a good idea to carefully consider what they want in a house first before they start looking, she added. Considerations include number of bedrooms, location, resale potential, and any renovation costs.

"It is costly to move, so these considerations are very important," Gibbons said.

When all the ducks are in a row and first-time house hunters find the right property at the right price, Winnipeg real estate lawyer Leandro Zylberman advises to take a breath before making an offer.

"When I get into the picture, it's usually after the offer has been signed and accepted," he said. "Once I get that, it's too late to make any changes."

If there are components of the offer the buyers don't understand, they can make the offer subject to lawyer approval, Zylberman advised.

This part of the process is made easier with advice of a real estate agent, who doesn't charge commission for buying a house, only for selling, Zylberman said, which is a definite perk for first-timers.

And don't forget about the closing costs, which can be more than moving and lawyer fees. Many provinces have a land or deed transfer tax that catches many first-time homebuyers unaware.

From start to finish, the homebuying journey can be a long one. According to CMHC statistics, first-time homebuyers take three months longer than repeat buyers to make their purchase. That's about 10 months total of planning.

Almost two-thirds of first-time homebuyers are younger than 35, where only 20 per cent of repeat buyers are younger than 35 years of age. A large majority, 82 per cent, of first-time buyers have a post-secondary education.

# Condos. Settle into a different type of lifestyle

YLVA
VAN BUUREN
For Metro

It's a great time to buy a condominium.

The market is more balanced compared to houses, says Toronto mortgage broker David Smith. And there are lots of long- and short-term benefits.

Here is a list to consider:

**1** Affordability. While budget will dictate location, amenities and size, a condominium is usually more affordable than a house. "For many first-time buyers, it's the only way to enter the real estate market," Smith said.

**2** Availability. There are lots of condos on the market, Smith said, and they are good value — an anticipated downward direction of prices hasn't occurred.

**3** Ease of living. Christopher Dewdney, a Toronto financial adviser and member of Advocis, the Financial Advisors Association of Canada, says condo fees generally cover maintenance such as snow removal, lawn care, and even indoor plumbing in some cases. Many condominiums provide amenities such as a pool, fitness club, and outdoor barbecues.

**4** Lifestyle. Some condominiums are "lifestyle communities" with regular events such as wine tasting and movie nights where owners can network and meet new friends.

**5** Safety. Most condos have built-in security including security cameras and a concierge.

**6** Good investment. "Historically, you see an appreciation in the value of real estate," Dewdney said. That's great compared to renting where you end up with no equity or ownership. A condominium could become a rental property in the future for you, too.

**7** Net worth. You are building your net worth. Through the property, you are building equity, Dewdney said. "If there's a financial opportunity or emergency, you could always secure a line of credit against that equity in the property."

**8** Stepping Stone. A condominium will be worth more in the future — if you sell it, you can use the surplus towards a new property or investment.

Be prepared and know what you can afford for a down payment for a new home, and what your price range and budget are before you get started.

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

# An investment that's worth the challenge

KRISTA
SYLVESTER
For Metro

Buying your first home can be a daunting task but it's an investment that is worth the challenge, especially if you know the tricks of the trade.

Calgary realtor Bill Leesman is experienced in helping first-time homebuyers find their ideal first home and his biggest advice would be to do their research first.

"You have to be prepared and know what you can afford for a down payment, and what your price range and budget are before you get started," he said.

"First-time homebuyers should be prepared to keep their first home for at least four or five years in order to get enough equity to be able to upgrade to a new home later on. Buying your first home for just a year or two doesn't make much sense."

That's why Leesman recommends buying the right size of home — if you are going to have a growing family, make sure you have enough room in the house down the road.

And while nice appliances and several bedrooms are always nice to have, they don't factor in to the overall cost as much as some people might believe, Leesman said. Leesman cautions homebuyers to make sure the appliances are in working order or they might have to buy new ones after they move in.

However, developed basements and garages certainly drive the cost up.

"People are actually better off buying homes with undeveloped basements and without garages and then finishing them later themselves. People can generally build their own garage or develop the basement after the fact for less than what it would cost added on to the house price."

Another big factor that can drive up the cost of a home is location. "Busier streets tend to cost less than quieter streets or houses in cul-de-sacs," Leesman said.

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# Added attention elevates JV's game

**NBA.** Valanciunas posts double-double in Raptors' win over 76ers

The trouble swirling around Jonas Valanciunas didn't show in his game Wednesday.

The Raptors' sophomore centre scored 26 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lift Toronto to a 125-114 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday, less than three days after he was charged with drunk driving.

Kyle Lowry topped Toronto (45-32) with 29 points in his first game back after missing three with a bruised kneecap. Patrick Patterson finished with 17 for the Raptors (45-32), in their fourth straight victory and seventh in eight outings.

DeMar DeRozan added 17 points before leaving the game with a minute to play with a nasty gash over his left eye. Toronto was missing starting forward Amir Johnson for the fourth straight game.

Henry Sims scored 22 points, Michael Carter-Williams added 19, and Thaddeus Young finished with 16 for the Sixers (17-61).

Valanciunas scored the Raptors' first points of the night, then grabbed a rebound on the Sixers' first shot, and scored on a thunderous dunk on a pass from DeRozan on Toronto's next trip down the floor.

The Raptors are headed for the post-season for the first time in six years, and are on pace to win both the Atlantic Division title and top their franchise record for wins of 47 — set in 2000-01 and 2006-07.

There were questions about Valanciunas playing Wednesday in the wake of his arrest. Coach Dwane Casey was asked pre-game about what message that sends.

"We sent a message," Casey replied. "We sent a message that we don't condone it, we're disappointed in him. By playing him, we're not saying we're condoning it."

Valanciunas's first court appearance is scheduled for Collingwood on April 22. The 21-year-old is not required to attend so a lawyer will stand in for him. He could receive a suspension from the NBA.

THE CANADIAN PRESS AND TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**On Wednesday**

| Raptors | 76ers |
|---|---|
| 125 | 114 |

**Quoted**

**"Everyone likes cheering for the underdog and nothing brings out fans more than a winning team."**

**Richard Power, a professor at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management,** is among experts that believe the playoff-bound Raptors can grow their fan base with the Maple Leafs failing to qualify for the post-season.

Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas slams home two points against the 76ers at Air Canada Centre on Wednesday night. PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Blue Jays' Adam Lind hits a run-scoring single against the Astros at Rogers Centre on Wednesday night. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# MLB. Jays' bats blast Astros into orbit

Canadian Brett Lawrie hit his first home run of the season and Toronto starter Brandon Morrow struck out nine over six innings as the Blue Jays defeated the Houston Astros 7-3 on Wednesday night at Rogers Centre.

Lawrie belted a two-run shot off reliever Josh Zeid in the seventh inning as Toronto (5-4) earned its first series victory of the young season. Morrow (1-1) allowed five hits and three earned runs as the Blue Jays moved above the .500 mark.

**On Wednesday**

| Blue Jays | Astros |
|---|---|
| 7 | 3 |

Melky Cabrera, Maicer Izturis and Dioner Navarro had two hits apiece as Toronto outhit the Astros 10-6.

Morrow struck out the side in the first inning and his teammates gave him an early lead with a pair of runs in the bottom half of the frame. The hard-throwing right-hander went on to retire the Astros in order the first time through the lineup.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# TFC's Orr: a mentor for Valanciunas?

**Beat adversity in the head.** Jailed after a brawl at 23, the now veteran moved on to build a solid career

Ask people who know Bradley Orr and the reviews of the veteran English fullback are glowing.

A great teammate. An experienced professional. A player to watch and learn from.

"He's a fabulous member of any squad," said Toronto FC captain Steven Caldwell, who's known the 31-year-old Orr for more than 15 years and shares an agent. "A real character, a real winner."

That character, in part, was forged the hard way. As a young man, he made mistakes that led to jail.

Then the Liverpool native learned from them.

Bradley Orr
GETTY IMAGES FILE

If Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment is looking for someone to mentor 21-year-old Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas, charged this week with drunk driving, it probably need look no further than its sister soccer team and Orr.

He made headlines in 2006 when he was one of three Bristol City players jailed for their part in a nightclub brawl. A fourth player was given community service.

Orr and a teammate were sentenced to 28 days in jail. Wales international David Partridge was given two months behind bars. The players were also suspended and fined two weeks' wages by their club.

"Soccer Heroes in Prison Shame" was the headline in England's Sun tabloid.

It didn't help that just days before sentencing, Orr was sent off for attempting to head-butt a teammate during a nationally televised game.

Some eight years later, Orr believes his biggest mistake was just being at the Romeo Browns nightclub.

"It's eight years down the line and I'm still playing football for a living. I've got an amazing family here with me. I've got a lot of people who mean a lot to me."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Champions League**

## Bayern rallies past Man U to reach semifinal

Defending champion Bayern Munich beat Manchester United 3-1 (4-3 aggregate) Wednesday night with goals from Mario Mandzukic, Thomas Mueller and Arjen Robben to reach its third straight Champions' semi. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kris Letang's stroke**

## Hockey as risky as shopping: Penguins' GM

Pittsburgh Penguins general manager Ray Shero has given Kris Letang the go-ahead to return to action, saying hockey is no more likely than shopping to give the defenceman another stroke.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Lacrosse**

## T.O. Rock's Billings out for the season

Toronto Rock forward Garrett Billings, the leading scorer in the National Lacrosse League, will miss the rest of the 2014 season after suffering a torn knee ligament in a 17-9 win over Vancouver last Saturday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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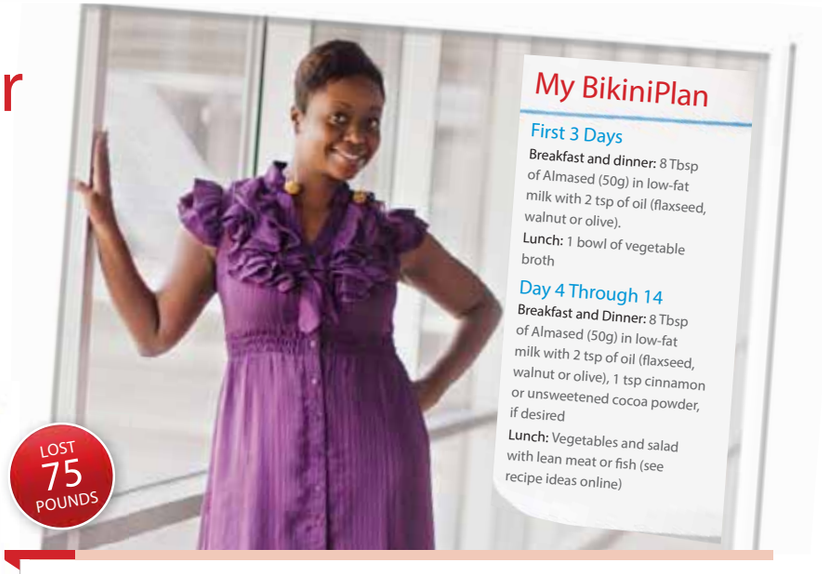
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The Canucks fired GM Mike Gillis on Tuesday, but there were plenty other disappointing NHL campaigns around hockey this season. Scan this image to vote on who should be the next NHL executive to hit the road.

Brendan Shanahan, pictured, is reportedly being pursued for a top hockey job with the Maple Leafs by MLSE president and CEO Tim Leiweke.
BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

# Shanny's law might work well in Leafland

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Adam Proteau
toronto@metronews.ca

As the Maple Leafs' season fully craters in the immediate weeks to come, there will be (and indeed, already are) calls for change in the organization. Few can see any scenario in which head coach Randy Carlyle retains his job for next season; fair or not, you don't spectacularly melt down twice in two years — in two different manners: one, quickly and painfully as they did in Boston; the other, the long, slow torture of this season's nosedive — without someone paying. And until Tim Leiweke says otherwise, that's not likely to be GM Dave Nonis.

However, rumours arose Wednesday that Leiweke has another name in mind to add to the Leafs' front office: Hall of Famer and NHL director of player safety Brendan Shanahan. And while the former Red Wings legend doesn't have any experience as a member of an NHL management team, he would instantly improve Toronto's standing in league circles and make them a more attractive destination for free agents.

This isn't to say the 45-year-old has a magic touch and would be a cure-all for what ails the franchise. But ever since he retired in 2009, the Toronto native has been one of the most active members of the hockey community. In his role as NHL disciplinarian, he regularly works with NHL GMs, understands the way the game is policed as well as anyone and has been instrumental in modernizing the way suspension decisions are explained. You may disagree with his decisions, but you can't question his work ethic and connections.

If Shanahan is brought on board, there are people who will make the argument he's learning on the job in arguably the NHL's most difficult market. That's fair comment, but there was another man who had no experience coaching, playing or managing at the NHL level when he began his GM career in 1987. You may have heard of him. His name is Lou Lamoriello, currently the GM of the New Jersey Devils, two-time Stanley Cup-winner and one of the greatest managers the league has ever seen.

As much as people want it to be true, there's no GM — currently employed by an NHL team or otherwise — whose hiring in Toronto will guarantee a cup win. But if they hire Shanahan, they'll be getting someone who is his own man, and someone who builds consensus yet who ultimately has shown the buck stops with him.

He never played for the Leafs, but that doesn't mean Shanahan wouldn't be a great hire. I'd bet on him before I'd bet against him.

**Playoff flameouts**

## Oh, Canadiens!

The Toronto Maple Leafs' playoff hopes ended on Tuesday with a 3-0 loss in Tampa Bay, leaving the Montreal Canadiens as the lone Canadian team left fighting for a Stanley Cup.

According to hockey-reference.com, the last time there was just one post-season participant from north of the border was in 1973 when, yes, the Habs topped the Chicago Blackhawks in the Stanley Cup final. METRO

The Canadiens will be Canada's only hope when the playoffs begin. GETTY IMAGES

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## Horoscopes

### ♈ Aries
**March 21 - April 20**
The Sun in your birth sign does wonders for your confidence but there will still be times when self-belief deserts you. Keep telling yourself there is no good reason you should fear the worst, now or ever.

### ♉ Taurus
**April 21 - May 21**
This may not be an easy time of year for you but you can sense that the day will soon be here when your luck turns. Maybe that day will come sooner if you act as if nothing could possibly go wrong.

### ♊ Gemini
**May 22 - June 21**
Tone down your comments because the planets warn if you say something others consider over the top it will rebound on you in ways you had not expected.

### ♋ Cancer
**June 22 - July 23**
Think twice before volunteering to help the less fortunate through a task you know little about. Others may be wowed by your enthusiasm but they won't be so impressed if you make a mess of the job.

### ♌ Leo
**July 24 - Aug. 23**
Don't expose yourself to any kind of situation where you do not have full control over what happens. Not even your confidence will protect you from people who do not share your sense of fair play.

### ♍ Virgo
**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**
You seem to have a phobia about something that at other times would not worry you. It may continue for a few days but come the start of next week you'll be all smiles again.

### ♎ Libra
**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**
Make sure you know what you are talking about today, especially if you are dealing with people who are experts. If you make claims that cannot be backed up with facts, they will make you look silly.

### ♏ Scorpio
**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**
For some reason you seem to believe you don't have the talent to be a success. That isn't true. Get your head straight and get on with making your mark on the world.

### ♐ Sagittarius
**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**
You have a tendency to say things you don't believe because you enjoy seeing the looks of shock on people's faces. It may be a lot of fun, but it could backfire today.

### ♑ Capricorn
**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**
You can be sarcastic and the planets warn that your caustic way with words could have long-term consequences that damage others and you.

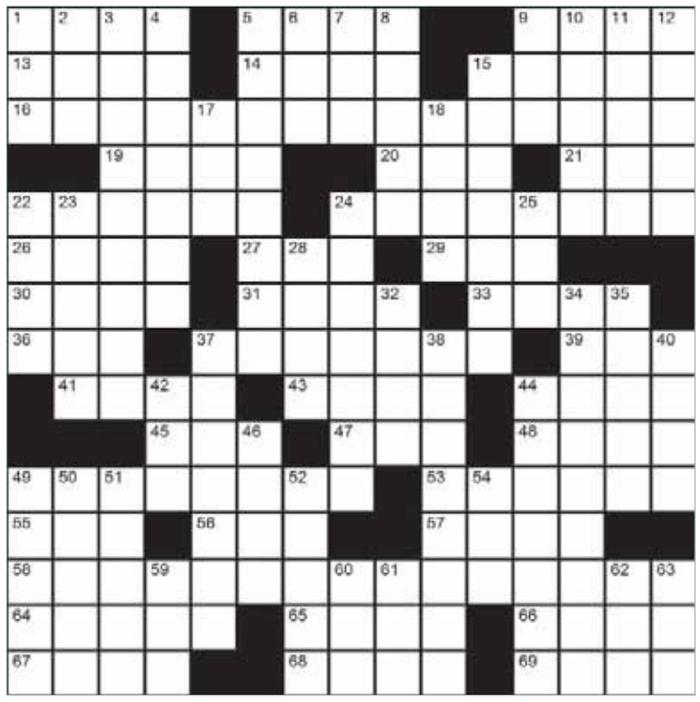
### ♒ Aquarius
**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**
You may not get much in the way of thanks for a good deed today but that's OK. The world would be a sad place indeed if we only ever did favours for others because we expected to get something back in return.

### ♓ Pisces
**Feb. 20 - March 20**
Try not to get angry or frustrated if a goal you are aiming to reach seems to be further away than ever. Just as there is a reason for everything that happens in life so too is there a reason for everything that does not happen. **SALLY BROMPTON**

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

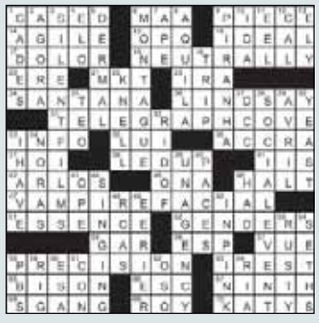
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**Across**
1. Niagara Falls' Maid of the __
5. Angry arfer's admonition
9. Dull
13. Wine: __ Spumante
14. Donnie Iris song: "Ah! __!"
15. Accustom
16. Toronto: The __ __ __ Theatre (Opened in 1993, it was named after a member of The Royal Family)
19. Reclined
20. Couplet
21. Antacid brand
22. House kind
24. Herb that sounds like a toast spread
26. Interest __
27. __ __ roll
29. Nero's 54
30. __-bitty
31. Newfoundland's nickname, The __
33. Broom closet items
36. "O Sole __"
37. "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" cast member who is Canadian producer David Foster's wife
39. Cdn. capital
41. Norway's capital
43. Rhyme scheme
44. Indebted person
45. Retro albums, e.g.
47. Spinning stat.
48. Reality's Ms. Leakes
49. Peter of HBO's "Game of Thrones"
53. About [abbr.]
55. A bus driver follows one, for short
56. Cobbler's tool
57. Switchblade
58. "Chasing the Sunset" band from Winnipeg: 2 wds.
64. Hotel employee
65. God: French
66. Mackerel sort
67. Their __ Were Watching God (1937 novel by #51-Down)
68. Chick containers
69. Trans-Canada, et al.

**Down**
1. Location locator
2. Medit. locale
3. Spikes
4. Sarah Palin impersonator: 2 wds.
5. Manitoba village, home of tourist attraction Sara the Camel
6. __ judicata (Settled court matter)
7. __ al-Khaimah, Middle East emirate
8. Valerie Harper title role
9. Genetic info carrier
10. Geometry set item
11. Field
12. Broom-of-twigs
15. "Letters from __ __" (2006) directed by Clint Eastwood
17. Spy org.
18. Roll up a flag
22. Ladylike
23. 3.14, for example
24. Ghastly
25. Lacto-__ vegetarian
28. 'The Big Easy'
32. Start to 'sack' (Hiker's bag)
34. __-Pine Falls, Manitoba
35. Office item, __ pad
37. Brand of yogurt
38. Syria's capital
40. Famed dino
42. Currency in Albania
44. Singing the right note in music: 2 wds.
46. Cut
49. Ambition
50. "Be that as __ __..."
51. Author, Zora __ Hurston
52. Wooded spot's open space
54. Greek letter
59. Some stoves
60. Fix
61 Edmonton International Airport code
62 'Trick' suffix
63. Boat's distress

### Yesterday's Crossword



## Sudoku

**How to play**
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 9 | 7 | | |
| | | | 2 | 4 | | 3 | | |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | | | | 1 | | |
| 5 | | | 1 | | 8 | | 9 | |
| | 9 | | | | | | 3 | |
| | 7 | | 9 | | 5 | | | 4 |
| | | 2 | | | | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| | | 3 | | 6 | 2 | | | |
| | | 8 | 5 | | | | | |

### Yesterday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| 5 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 |

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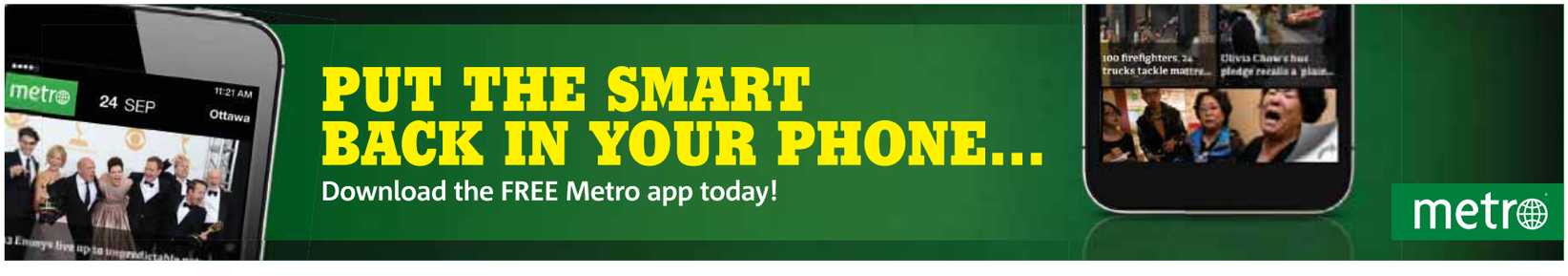

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GLS model shown♦
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HWY: 7.2L/100 KM
CITY: 10.0L/100 KM▼

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